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WEEKLY

VOL 16 No.725 - TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1995 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2

SOCCEROO BIG GUNS READY FOR GHANA

Craig Moore

Mark Bosnich

Ned Zelic

Aurelio Vidmar

Frank Farina

Paul Okon

National League transfer system

PLAYERS CLAIM VICTORY

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And Test Your Knowledge

Answer the questions below then find the answers in the FIND-A-STAR above

1) Brazil's only goal in their win in the international Challenge in England over Sweden last Monday was scored by Flamengo star Edmundo. What is his nickname? _____

2) Name the controversial manager of Germany? _____

3) Who caused a sensation by holding Ireland to a scoreless draw in a European Championship qualifier last Sunday leaving Uncle Jacky stunned!? _____

4) The legendary Puskas coached which Melbourne side? _____

5) Which side did Puskas also take to European Champions Cup glory setting the standard for the Cups' prestige and pedigree? _____

6) Which successful World Cup coach are the United States hoping to lure as their national Coach? _____

7) Who recently overtook Spain in FIFA's latest rankings for national teams to claim second place? _____

8) There are 178 national teams in the FIFA ladder- who holds a tie for the wooden spoon? _____

9) Where did Frank Farina begin his NSL career as a teenage sensation? _____

10) Who is officially the world's most capped player owning the nickname 'Desert Pele', for his performances for Saudi Arabia playing 14 7 'A' ranked internationals. _____

Compiled by Darren Ally

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe 2037. Tel (02) 660-2033 Fax (02) 692-0649 * 660-7485 TELEX AA22141
Published every Tuesday by FL Press Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Pt Road, Glebe 2037 Tel: (02) 660 2033
VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd 276 Russell St, 2nd Floor Melb 3000. Tel: (03) 419 2000
QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006 Tel: (07) 252-6011
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218-9329
WEST AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328-4779

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National League Transfer System

Extra-time needed

BY ALFRED HIATT AND AAP

The Australian Soccer Players' Association claimed victory last week in its battle to abolish the National League transfer system - but the Australian Soccer Federation says the result was a draw, and extra-time is needed.

The Industrial Relations Commission last week rejected the application of the Player's Association, part of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, for an interim award abolishing compensation fees.

But, crucially, the IRC said the present compensation fee system should be abolished by the end of 1996.

This will mean that, from the end of 1996, out-of-contract players will be free to move between clubs without a fee being placed on their heads.

The Commission also laid down guidelines for negotiations to take place between the ASF and the Players' Association, to be convened by an industrial relations commissioner.

Players' Association chief executive Kimon Taliadoros said the IRC's decision that the transfer system should be abolished by the end of 1996 was a step forward for Australian soccer.

"We are very, very happy with this decision," said a delighted Taliadoros.

"The important thing is that it locks us into the system, and ensures that something will happen.

"We will now go into negotiations (With the ASF) as soon as possible."

Players Association lawyer Brendan Schwab also claimed the decision as a victory for soccer players, and a vindication of the Association's position.

"Sure we would have liked the system to go now, but what we liked about this decision is that it takes into account the broader interests of the sport," Schwab said.

"We aren't too fussed. Whatever form that takes, what will happen is that at the end of 1996 the transfer system will not exist."

But ASF chief executive Ian Holmes said he was not disappointed by the decision, and denied it represented a defeat for the ASF.

"We've had a draw," Holmes maintained. "We can treat the meetings which will be convened by Commissioner McDonald, as extra-time. And if we can't come to an agreement we'll go to a penalty shoot-out in front of the full bench."

However, Holmes admitted the system will have to change following the decision.

"The IRC are telling us that the system needs to be reviewed, that it has a number of unsatisfactory aspects, and that the compensation fee system needs to be replaced or modified," he acknowledged.

"It is the beginning and end of the compensation fee system in its present form."

Holmes said a salary cap, or player draft could replace the existing system, although these measures are known to be unpopular with the players.

Alan Vessey, the chairman of the Players' Relations Committee who has led the NSL clubs' campaign against the Players' Association, said the IRC decision would bring opposing parties together to look at alternatives to the current system.

Kimon Taliadoros: Happy with the IRC's decision.

However, he added the Players' Association had made it hard to negotiate by insisting on the abolition of transfer fees.

In trying to put a positive spin on the decision, the ASF and the clubs took heart from the Commission's statement that it respected the beliefs of the game's administrators.

The Commission said it would not "override the views of those responsible for the administration of soccer in Australia."

Nevertheless, the Commission's decision struck a number of blows in favour of the players.

The Commission rejected the employers' primary justification for the transfer system, saying while being justified by the NSL clubs and the ASF as compensating a club for the training and development of a player, it has in fact, little if anything to do with the training and development of a player."

Other points in the Commission's decision included that the transfer system:

*operate in many instances unfairly towards players

*treats players as if they were the property of the club

*if abolished, may lead to an increase in the remuneration of some professional soccer players

*may not overall operate to the advantage of the soccer clubs

*may not operate to the advantage of the sport of soccer in Australia

*may constitute an unreasonable (and hence unlawful) restraint on trade

*impinges on the freedom to choose one's employer."

Although the IRC's decision means the status quo will remain for next season, it seems clear that the transfer system's days are numbered.

The Commission has decided it has jurisdiction over the NSL, so its decision is binding. However, the decision will not affect overseas transfers, or any of the state leagues. Nevertheless, the IRC accepted almost all of the arguments raised against transfer fees, and that represents a triumph for the players who have fought for more than a year to change the system. The ASF must now pay a sizeable legal bill for defending the status quo on behalf of the clubs.

Australia v Ghana

Ghanaians more skilful than Cameroon - Thommo

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Australia's coach Eddie Thomson is more than looking forward to his team's three clashes against former African champions, Ghana, starting with the first clash on Sunday afternoon at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Thomson assembled his Australian squad yesterday (Monday) afternoon in a training camp at the luxurious Novotel Hotel at Brighton Le Sands, in Sydney.

Australia trained lightly yesterday afternoon at the St George Stadium minus three key European based players.

Striker Graham Arnold arrives in Sydney today (Tuesday), giant goalkeeper Mark Bosnich comes in from England tomorrow and veteran flank-striker Frank Farina is expected to arrive in Sydney from France on Thursday.

Thomson stated to ABSW last night: "The Ghanaians who are coached by the Brazilian Ismail Kurtz, play a very fast and skilful style of game and it is essential that Australia retains as much possession as possible.

"The Ghanaians are not as physically strong as the Cameroons, but are far more skilful.

"If you allow them too much possession, they have the skills, stamina and pace to force you to chase them all afternoon.

"Ghana recently lost 3-2 to World Cup finalist, Norway in a friendly and as you know Norway has been doing extremely well in the Euro-championship qualifiers."

Thomson then went on to add, "Despite the fact that the Ghanaians arrived yesterday without two of their high profiled players such as Leeds United's striker Tony Yeboah and Torino's magical midfielder Abedi Pele, believe me these Africans will be a handful.

"It was Pele who scored both of Ghana's goals against the Norwegians.

"Ghana's squad has no less than nine of their players based full-time with European clubs, plus no less than seven who all play with Ghana's leading club Goldfields.

"Australian Soccer fans will vividly remember Ghana's star 20-year-old Aston Villa midfielder Nii Lamptey who captained Ghana's Youth team in the 1993 World Youth Championships staged here in Australia when they narrowly lost the Final in Sydney to eventual champions Brazil.

"I think however that the Ghanaians themselves will be worried about us as well, having most of our Euro-based players back for these three matches.

"I have retained Paul Wade in the squad and he will captain Australia again.

"Wadie has done nothing wrong and I can't leave him out. He has been a good captain for Australia, both on and off the field for me in the past.

"It is great that I have most of my overseas based players back to play for Australia, people such as the Vidmars, Zelics, Farinas, Arnolds, Okons, Van Blerks and Bosnichs" ended the Australian coach.

Thomson will be without three of his overseas based Australians.

Right midfielder, Robbie Slater based with Blackburn Rovers has pulled out of the Australian squad due to his mother's death in England last week.

Striker Alistair Edwards based with England first division side Millwall, has also reluctantly pulled out of the Australian squad.

Edwards back in Perth last week on holidays, underwent quick surgery last Thursday morning for a groin ailment that has plagued the goalscorer not only in England but for the last two years whilst playing in the Malaysian football League with Selengor.

World Cup central marker, Mehmet Durakovic is unavailable for selection due to his playing commitments with Selengor in Malaysia.

Durakovic's unavailability has given Sydney United's cultured sweeper, Tony Popovic the golden chance to link up with Adelaide City's dynamic duet defenders Alex Tobin and Milan Ivanovic in the heart of Australia's defence.

This towering trio (all three stand well over six feet tall) gives Australia a commanding authoritative-aerial look at the back allowing the flank-defendersTony Vidmar and Jason Van Blerk to push down the lines.

Thomson does have some slight injury problems to his overseas stars. Aston Villa's star goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is suffering from a twisted ankle but will be O.K. to play on Sunday.

Exceptional goalscoring midfielder, Aurelio Vidmar, has a groin strain and will only play in the second match in Adelaide.

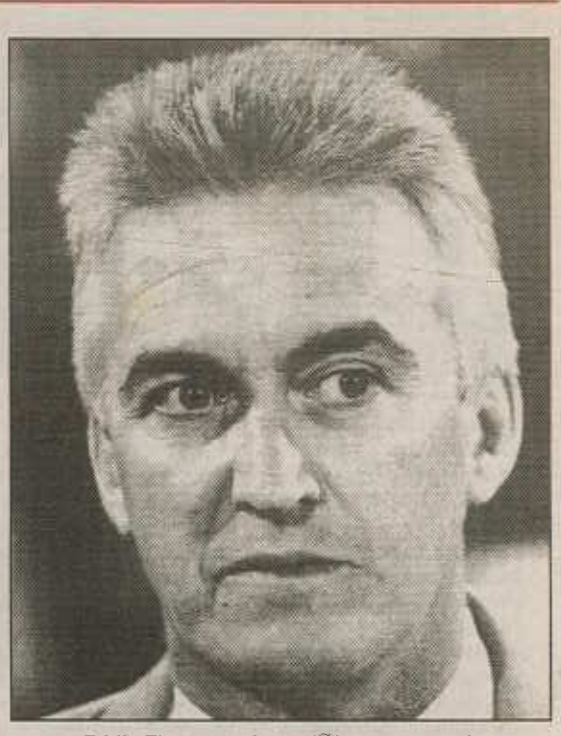
Players such as defenders, Craig Moore, Tony Popovic, Stan Lazaridis, midfielder Steve Corica and striker John Markovski, are all exerting pressure for places in the first team.

For the first match in Sydney, Thomson has already pencilled in his First XI to kick of the three-clash-series.

Goalkeeper: Bosnich.
Defenders: T. Vidmar, Tobin, Popovic, Ivanovic, Van Blerk.
Midfielder: Wade, Okon, Corica.
Strike-line: Arnold, Farina

Tony Vidmar: Australia's champion raiding right back.

Paul Wade: Australia's captain.



Eddie Thomson: Australia's astute coach.

SOCCEROO SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa)
Zeljko Kalac (Sydney United)
Defenders: Tony Vidmar (Adelaide City)
Alex Tobin (Adelaide City)
Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)
Stan Lazaridis (West Adelaide)
Steve Horvat (Melbourne Knights)
Craig Moore (Glasgow Rangers)
Jason van Blerk (Millwall)
Tony Popovic (Sydney United)
Paul Okon (Club Brugge)
Midfielders: Paul Wade (Heidelberg Utd, captain)
Jason Polak (South Melbourne)
Steve Corica (Marconi Fairfield)
Aurelio Vidmar (Standard Liege)
Ned Zelic (Borussia Dortmund)
Forwards: John Markovski (Morwell Falcons)
Frank Farina (Lille)
Graham Arnold (NAC Breda)
Carl Veart (Sheffield United)

GHANA SQUAD

Kwame Ayew (Leece, Italy)
Asare Isaac (Anderlecht, Belgium)
Yaw Preko (Anderlecht, Belgium)
Tanko Ibrahim (Borussia Dortmund, Germany)
Mallam Yahaya (Borussia Dortmund, Germany)
Nii Odartey Aryee (Goldfields, Ghana)
Sam Johnson (Hearts of Oak, Ghana)
Stephen Baidoo (Goldfields, Ghana)
Affo Doudoo (Goldfields, Ghana)
Ebenezer Hagan (Goldfields, Ghana)
Augustine Arhinful (Kries FC, Switzerland)
Nii Lamptey (Aston Villa, England)
Simon Addo (Ghapoha, Ghana)
Nana Benyin Crenstil (Goldfields, Ghana)
Kasula Da Costa (Goldfields, Ghana)
Daniel Addo (DFB Stutgart, Germany)
Ben Kluvi (Goldfields, Ghana)
Prince Polley (Twente Enchede, Holland)

COCA-COLA SOCCEROOS CAMERA DAY

Australian soccer fans will be given a fantastic opportunity to meet and mix with the Coca-Cola Socceroos during the three-match series against Ghana.

The Australian Soccer Federation, with the full backing of national coach Eddie Thomson, has arranged for all members of the Coca-Cola Socceroos to be available for approximately 45 minutes before each game in Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

During the set times fans, who are encouraged to bring their cameras, can have their photographs taken with their favourite players and have items autographed.

DETAILS:

Sunday, June 18, Sydney Football Stadium 1.15pm to 2pm
Wednesday, June 21, Hindmarsh Stadium 5.45pm to 6.30pm
Saturday, June 24, WACA 5.45pm to 6.30pm
For further information please contact the Australian Soccer Federation on 597 6611.

Okon wary of top Ghana striker

BY ALFRED HIATT

Australia should beware of Ghana striker Yaw Preko, warns Club Brugge's Socceroo Paul Okon.

Okon has come up against Preko, who plays for Anderlecht, in the Belgian League.

"Preko is a regular player for Anderlecht. He is very quick and exciting, and has a very good technique," revealed Okon.

Okon also is well aware of the talents of Ghana gun Nii Lamptey.

The former Marconi star became friends with Lamptey when the Black Star played for Belgian champions Anderlecht, before he moved first to Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, and then to Mark Bosnich's Aston Villa.

Ghana

However, Okon believes Lamptey has been overrated in the past.

Lamptey, who starred at the 1993 World Youth Cup in Australia, made his debut for Anderlecht when he was just 16. Players under 16 are not allowed to play in the Belgian league.

"Everyone thought Nii would be the next star of world soccer because he made his debut as a 16-year-old," Okon explained.

"I don't think he has justified the compliments he received, but there's certainly a heap of talent there."

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Melbourne Knights in Japan

Knights crush J-League opponents

Star striker Mark Viduka spearheaded a first-half scoring blitz from national league champions Melbourne Knights in their 3-0 win over J-League club Jubilo Iwata in Japan last Wednesday night.

Young Socceroos captain Viduka netted in the 11th and 35th minutes with Ljubo Lapsansky scoring in the 29th.

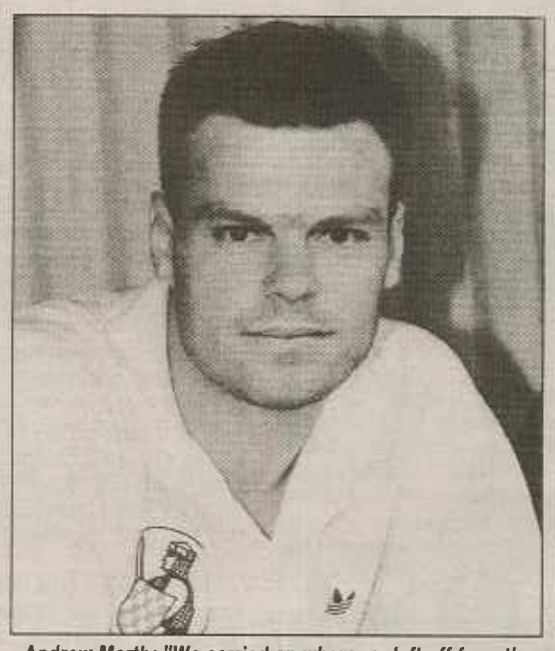
The Knights missed several opportunities to add to their tally while the home team enjoyed a 15 minute bout of pressure in the second half.

Jubilo, missing three national team members, put a second-half penalty wide of the goal after Knights full-back Fausto De Amicis handled the ball.

"Our first half was absolutely brilliant. We expected a lot more from Iwata, they had three players away in the Japanese team but that's no excuse," said Knights captain Andrew Marth.

"We carried on where we left off from the grand final, we fell apart a bit in the second half because of a lack of fitness as the boys have not done anything for a month."

Marth, who left the field with a hamstring strain in the second half, said defender David Cervinski did a fine job on Italy's 1990 World Cup hero "Toto" Schillaci and the midfield played well as did Viduka and Ollie Pondeljak up front.



Andrew Marth: "We carried on where we left off from the grand final.

J-League interested in Viduka

BY ADRIAN WARREN, AAP

Highly rated striker Mark Viduka last Friday revealed a couple of J League clubs had shown interest in him during the Melbourne Knights tour of Japan.

"A couple of them are interested, but I haven't had any offers," said Viduka from the Knights Yokohama hotel.

The much sought after striker said he had not yet made a decision about his playing future.

But he said he would return to Australia at the conclusion of the Knights tour.

Asked whether he still intended to go to Croatia as had previously been reported, Viduka replied "I don't know what is going to happen."

He added he hoped to resolve his future within the next couple of months.

He captained the Young Socceroos at the World Youth championship and also represented the Olyroos and was part of the first Knights side to win a national soccer league title.

Viduka scooped the major NSL awards for the second season running, as he carried off this season's trophies for Best Player, Best Young Player and leading scorer.

VIDUKA SCORES IN LIKELY FAREWELL

Top striker Mark Viduka last Friday marked his likely farewell performance for the Melbourne Knights with a goal in the Australian champion's 1-1 draw with Japanese J League side Yokohama Flugels.

A last minute equaliser from Hiroki Hattori denied the Knights a second victory in their second and final match on tour.

Melbourne's Oliver Pondeljak, Daniel Tiatto and Lubomir Lapsansky kept the Flugels' goal under constant pressure in the first half of the match at Yokohama Stadium.

But the fatigued Knights were unable to reproduce the scoring fireworks of last Wednesday's 3-0 win over Jubilo Iwata.

"Most of us are really tired, the game on Wednesday night took a lot out of us," said Viduka.

"We were struggling even before today's game. I was struggling as well with my fitness and running."

The Young Socceroos' captain claimed the second half lasted around 54 minutes and was also unhappy with the state of the pitch.

Mark Viduka: Very pleased.

Turf squares were laid over the stadium's artifical surface and Viduka said the ball bounced erratically.

Viduka broke the scoreless tie in the 72nd minute with a left-foot shot from 12m following good work from substitute Joe Spiteri, who replaced Pondeljak.

Hattori gave the 20,155 crowd a last gasp equaliser to cheer when he latched onto a pass from Seiichiro Okuno and dribbled through the Knights' defence.

Viduka's goal took his tally for the two match tour to three and was almost certainly his last for the club before a lucrative move overseas.

"I just went out there and played like it was any normal game. I managed to score and I was very pleased with that," said Viduka.

Asked whether this game was his last for the Knights, Viduka replied: "I think so".

Although he recently spent 10 days training with top Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb, Viduka stressed he had not committed himself to that team.

"I went there to keep up my fitness and form for this tour. There was nothing else in it, I had a bit of a talk with them but nothing concrete," said Viduka.

He said he was not really worrying over where he would play next and suggested he would pledge his allegiance to the club which offered him the most money.

"Japan is not out of the question. If I can come to Japan for a year and then afterwards go to Europe, I might," said Viduka, who has attracted the interest of at least two J League clubs.

Yokohama Flugels 1 (Hattori 89) Melbourne Knights 1 (Viduka 72)
Crowd: 20,155

Petersen wins Blues top award

BY CON STAVROS

Midfielder Mike Petersen has won the prestigious Theo Marmaras award for South Melbourne's best player during the past season.

Petersen, 29 beat out Paul Trimboli, Alex Kuzmanovic and Kevin Muscat for the award announced at a glittering ball at Melbourne's Hyatt Hotel last Saturday.

"I'm not much for individual awards," said Petersen, after the presentation.

"It's a great honour, but you are only as good as the team around you. What this team is all about is winning the championship. I can assure you the hunger is really there."

Petersen not only starred for the Blues through a difficult season, but also took charge in the Blues dramatic finals thrust that ended in the Preliminary final to eventual champions the Melbourne Knights.

It is the first time Petersen has won the award, despite being a former Socceroo. He joins Mehmet Durakovic, Paul Wade, Steve Tasios, Steve Blair, Bobby Russel and Trimboli on the roll of honour from 1986 when the award was first announced.

Despite being at odds with current Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson, Petersen is still keen to win back his national shirt. On his performances last season, it may be hard for Thomson to keep on ignoring him.

The award ceremony featured a full house of almost 700 guests and focused heavily on the upcoming launch of South's new Lakeside complex for the coming season.

A display model was on hand for guests to peruse, with South President George Vasilopoulos heaping enormous praise on Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett and Melbourne Special Events Manager Ron Walker for their efforts in developing the complex.

As part of their work in bringing the new ground to fruition, Vasilopoulos awarded long serving club committee men Peter Mitrakis and Peter Abraam the Sam Papasavas President's Award for outstanding contribution to the club and Australian Soccer.

Speedy winger Steve Panopoulos collected the Most Improved award, whilst Ivan Kelic was the club's leading scorer.

With very little happening on the Victorian scene at present whilst the clubs hold their breath waiting the announcement of new changes to the NSL competition, rumors have been running fie with regards to the composition of the league for the next season.

If the worst case scenario for Victorian clubs was to eventuate, some administrators in the know suggest that both Heidelberg and the Melbourne Zebras could be facing the axe.

Heidelberg of course have had a troubled history in the past few years, whilst Melbourne have failed to ignite any major spectator support in the last two years that they have been back in the competition.

Despite Heidelberg and the Zebras' troubles, that move would be a major blow for Melbourne based soccer, with Morwell in reality quite a separate identity from the city.

Mark Viduka is expected to make an announcement in the next few weeks as to his likely destination for the continuation of his much publicised playing career. Recently back from Croatia, which he visited with teammate Steve Horvat, the V-Bomber is currently considering several offers, including some from Japan which he just finished touring with the Knights.

Viduka is tipped to go to Germany, although there has been strong interest in Croatia for both he and Horvat.

With Mirko Bazic unlikely to return and a number of the Knights looking overseas, it will be interesting to see how the club handles the complicated times ahead.

To round off the rumour file a quick look at some of the wilder claims makes for interesting prospects.

South Melbourne are looking for a new nickname with the change of venue - how does South Melbourne Lakers sound? We all know about the extra-round of matches next season, but it is believed that the league's new administration is keen on a constitutional change that will limit the league to 12 teams, tying in to the rumoured demise of Heidelberg, Melbourne Zebras, Parramatta and Sydney Olympic and the introduction of Newcastle, Canberra and eventually Perth and New Zealand.

Port admit slim chances

Soccer minnow Port Melbourne admits its chances of being admitted to a revamped National Soccer League are less than slim.

Club president Emmanuel Vathis said its application to join the national league was serious even though his club had limited corporate sponsorship, an inadequate ground and drew average crowds in their hundreds.

"We've got an alternative venue, our biggest problem is money, we need to spend $600,000 to $700,000 to play at NSL level and we would be struggling to get that," Vathis said.

Six clubs have applied to join the league, Preston, Bulleen, Port Melbourne, Blacktown, Newcastle and Canberra.

And Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) Chairman David Hill has warned that some of the older, weaker NSL clubs may not have a future in the remodelled national competition.

This has prompted speculation that Heidelberg United and Melbourne SC will face the axe.

Vathis said while there were many hurdles facing his club's bid for inclusion he believed Port had a side capable of being competitive in the NSL.

Port is riding high in the Victorian Premier League and is unbeaten in 16 outings.

"If we added two or three more players we would be a lot better side than some of the teams in the competition now," he said.

He baulked at a suggested merger with NSL wooden spooner Heidelberg.

"Amalgamation is out of the question, if Port Melbourne is going to the national league it's going there as Port Melbourne," he said.

Vathis said one of the many problems facing his Greek-backed side was its closeness to South Melbourne which also draws the majority of its support from the Greek community.

"But our house is in order as we do not owe anything to anybody.

"I'd like to think that we would get in, but if we do not we will apply again, we are looking to the future and our future is in the NSL," he said.

The ASF has said it does not have to stick rigidly to the concept of 14 teams, and could consider any number from 12 to 16 clubs.

State of Origin: NSW v Queensland

Ratcliffe's young guns ready for QLD

DAVID RATCLIFFE: NSW's new coach.

MIKE GIBSON: NSW Goalkeeper.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

DAVID RATCLIFFE, NSW's new State coach, has his work cut out for him as he guides the Blues to battle on Saturday night at Perry Park against Queensland.

The return leg has been set down to be played at the NSW's coastal town of Coffs Harbour, on July 9th.

Queensland last season defeated NSW 3-2 in the first leg and this year with the Maroons having already thrashed NSW in the Rugby League 'Origin Series' will be full of State pride and confidence to do the same on the Soccer scene.

But Queensland's coach Juan Cutillas, surprisingly (and certainly most courageously) has elected to drop two of the State's best and most experienced players.

Giant defender Alan Hunter and the pacey left-sided goalscoring-midfielder Chris Slater, have both been left out of the Queensland squad.

Hunter and Slater are match-breakers and both possess great experience as regular members playing with the Brisbane Strikers in the NSL.

But the former tenacious World Cup centre-back Ratcliffe however is not concerned, stating last night to ABSW: "Queensland can do whatever they like. My main and only concern is NSW.

"In selecting my squad, I have tried to keep it as young as possible as well as going for people that I believe one day could gain selection to play for Australia or the Olympic Games squad.

"Other than our goalkeeper Mike Gibson, my oldest field player is our captain David Barrett who despite his great experience, is only aged 26.

MARK BABIC: NSW's giant marker

"The rest are all much younger.

"I can see no point in selecting older players.

"At this stage, my other concern is that most of my players have not played since the NSL season ended.

"Having not played competitive games they obviously then do lack match fitness," ended Ratcliffe.

Sydney Olympic's powerful right-back Barrett is the new NSW captain.

The Sydney 26-year-old schoolteacher has always been rated highly by RatcliffE.

NSW'S Line-up

Barrett has been one of the NSL's most consistent and certainly most overlooked defenders for representative honours over the past six years.

Ratcliffe is expected to select Marconi's mobile centre-back Matthew Bingley and Sydney United's talented former World Youth striker Ante Milicic to spearhead the NSW's attack.

Bingley's selection as a striker is an intelligent move by Ratcliffe as the big blond defender was always a striker at St George before former Marconi boss Frank Arok converted him to a centre-back at Marconi.

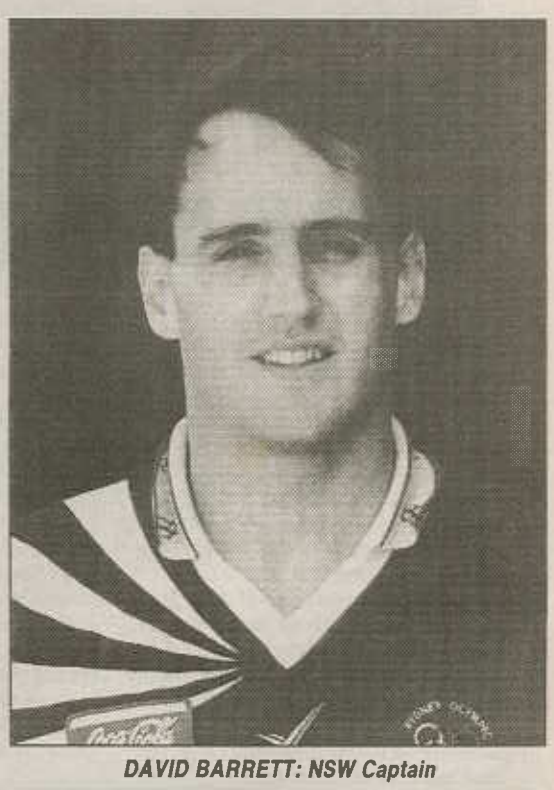
Linking up with Barrett in the NSW defence line will be the two giant central-markers Mark Babic and Nick Orlic with Adam Ciantar at left-back and Sydney Olympic's Peter Tsekenis slotting in the sweeper's role.

In the midfield, Ratcliffe is expected to field Wollongong City's captain Matthew Horsley, Marconi's recent signing Eric Hristodoulou with pacey Sydney United's international Ante Moric.

Sydney Olympic's stopper, George Sorras who got married last Saturday, may miss the squad travelling to Brisbane on Saturday.

Other players in the NSW squad to travel to Queensland are strikers from Olympic Norman Tome and Canterbury's Vlado Zoric, plus the Sydney United pair, right midfielder David Zdrilic and defender Robbie Stanton.

NSW will train tomorrow (Wednesday) night at the St George Stadium and again on Friday night before flying to Brisbane midday on Saturday.



DAVID BARRETT: NSW Captain

ANTE MORIC: NSW's pacey left midfielder.

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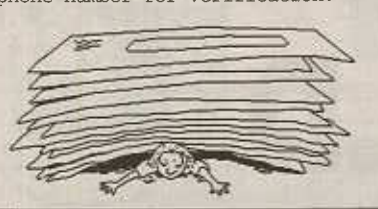

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NOT THAT WORD AGAIN

Dear Sir,

Ethnic: (of a racial group); so says the Australian Oxford Dictionary. This definition could well apply to all groups of people in Australia, yet its use is limited to people from a non-English speaking background. Anglo-Saxon's fit this definition nicely, but they are not pigeon-headed like the rest of us "opoulos's, ivici's and ollo's" of this world.

It would not matter if you just arrived from England yesterday, in the eyes of our society you would be considered more Australian than, say, my father, who has been living in this country for 45 years and is a naturalised Australian citizen. I, for that matter, was born in Australia and despite playing cricket, Aussie Rules and speaking English with a broad strine, am considered Greek.

They of course see my last name and my Southern European features, and yes, put me in the category of their choice. I and along with my fellow sufferers have been tagged for life and try as we might can't change the inevitable stereotyping.

We all know (and I am not stupid), that for soccer to prosper in this country, it must rid itself of the dreaded "ETHNIC IMAGE" tag. Soccer has been grappling with this issue since the NSL first began in 1977, so all this talk about soccer's future is not new.

I see where some of your writer's talk about "disbanding clubs, to accommodate other clubs who draw support from the broader community." What they mean is getting rid of traditional soccer supporters, who are mainly from a non Anglo-Saxon background, and replacing them with people who are deemed to be "more acceptable."

"OH NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEAN!! they will say. RUBBISH!! That's exactly what they mean. I want people from all sectors of society to participate and support this great game of ours, but not at the expense of a sector of society that has been discriminated against in the past.

Without the traditional supporter, soccer would have been dead and buried a long time ago. For the record, where is Blacktown or for that matter Newcastle mark I, II & III.

They have gone by the wayside!! If the traditional supporter left the game (or pushed out), we would all be back watching amateur soccer (no disrespect, I play amateur soccer myself). All the theorising and navel gazing in the world will not take the place of club loyalty and honest hard work.

Does Leon K (ABSW 30/5/95) think, that by banning "ethnic flags" that the "normal" person, who is "Anglo-Saxon", will come streaming through the turnstiles? I THINK NOT. Discrimination is bigger than flags.

We, the soccer public, crave recognition by the general population, as a child craves the attention of its parents. But all we get, is our parents telling us that we are not doing it right.

Maybe our non Anglo-Saxonism is a weakness and our achilles heel. Let's forget about our weaknesses and instead focus on our strength. This strength, is the internationalism of the game. It is a strength that no other major sport in this country can match or even hope to match. For the benefit of the code, we must forge links at the club level with Asia. It is an area our inept administrators should have forged a long time ago, instead of feeding off the dying carcass that was the NSL.

Face it, we will not get the crowds that Aussie Rules and Rugby League enjoys. Once you recognise this fact and accept it, then this allows you the freedom to look at other ways to go forward. Some of your readers, and for that matter David Hill, want clubs to go professional.

Where do these people think that the money to run the huge budgets necessary, is going to come from? Certainly not from the ASF (contrast this with the massive subsidies Aussies Rules get from the AFL. In soccer clubs are lumbered with affiliation fees of approximately $50,000 per year), and certainly not through the gates. But this may be achieved through large corporate sponsorships from companies who would love to get exposure to the large and lucrative Asian economies. One only has to look at Adelaide City and Clipsal industries as an example of what I am talking about.

Ponder this, there are 950 million people living in India. If only 5% of the total population has a standard of living comparable to the Australian middle class, that would equate to 47.5 million people with a standard of living as good, if not better than Australia's. There are probably more millionaires in China as there are people living in Australia. The numbers are quite mind boggling.

The question that begs to be asked, is why do we limit ourselves to a market that won't accept us!!?

If we focus on this overwhelming strength, then maybe, just maybe, our parents will one day sit up and take notice that junior has made it in the world.

Dennis Costopoulos,
Woodville SA

ROOM FOR CLUB AND COUNTRY

Dear Sir,

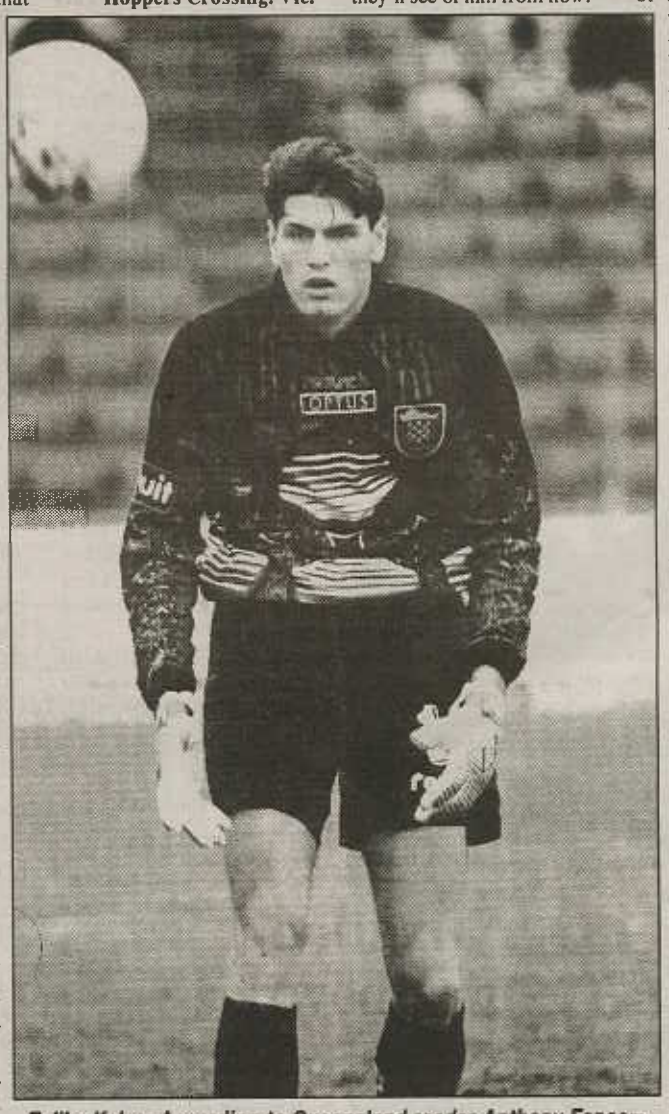
I am writing regarding the recent furore over Natalija Krsticevic's letter (16/5). Why is she being attacked for celebrating Melbourne Knights' recent championship victory?

The reaction from correspondents such as Plummer and Keramaris (30/5) was appalling. Keramaris calls supporters such as Natalija 'un-Australian', while Plummer calls for less 'ethnic exclusion'. Such comments are astonishing, given that Croatian Australian players have formed the backbone of Australia's recent teams: Seven out of 11 players in the World Youth Cup team, Zelic, Bosnich, Kalac, Viduka et al at senior and Olympic level, and yet such players cannot take pride in their background?!

As an Australian with 'First Settlement' origins, I personally have not felt 'excluded' from attending at any of the Brisbane Strikers' games at Perry Park. My Croatian friends and I support both the Strikers and the Croatian teams (when they visit). We travelled to Sydney to participate in Australian soccer' biggest game yet: the 1993 qualifier against Diego Maradona's Argentina. No-one could possibly accuse us of 'showing loyalty to another country above that of our own'. Is it so wrong to be proud of your heritage and your new country?

Soccer in Australia will take its rightful place as the real football only when supporters of the code cease denigrating other supporters and begin to promote the game to current non-believers. Supporters of teams such as the Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne have every right to proudly support both their club and their national team, the Socceroos.

Anthony Fensom,
St Lucia, Qld



Zeljko Kalac: According to Queensland reader Anthony Fensom, our National players are very Australian.

CONCERN FOR PRESTON

I am concerned about people saying that Preston Lions' chances of entering the NSL aren't crash hot. I believe Preston is one of the best supported clubs in the country and the best candidate out of the clubs trying to get in. Preston has added the Lions nickname so it can appeal to a wider community and not just for the Macedonian community.

There are plans for a drainage system, lighting and a grandstand. We have a home ground which some clubs haven't got.

I'd also like to emphasise the disappointment on Preston's rival candidate Port Melbourne, whose secretary Mr Poutselas stated, (ABSW, May 30 1995 page 7, "Promotion Candidates") "I believe we wouldn't want a team like Preston going up, when they still carry political slogans."

Well Mr Poutselas why bring politics into the promotion, can't you see we are trying to appeal to the whole community not just one ethnic group. If you look at the NSL, most teams have eliminated their ethnic ties and symbols and added nicknames to attract the wider community. I haven't seen your sister clubs Sth Melbourne and Heidelberg drop there ethnic symbols on there jumpers, so don't knock us down Mr Poutselas, we are an Australian team.

Zak Milenkovski,
Hoppers Crossing. Vic.

I mentioned in my previous letter that it should never be forgotten that the ethnics put football on the map here in Australia. But that's history now and the ethnics have gone as far as they can go. In fact, they cannot even introduce professionalism into the game.

Natalija's proud Croatian club have produced a brilliant player in Mark Viduka — but who's going to reap the benefits from his talents? Some European club. I hope they get satisfaction from catching glimpses of Viduka on World Soccer, because that's all they'll see of him from now!

WHAT GIVES?

Dear Sir,

What's going on in Aussie soccer?

First we are told "ethnics" are persona non grata though 90% of fans and officials are of non-Anglo descent, yet now the two top soccer bosses — David Hill and David Woolley — are born in England! What gives?

Johnnie Garrone,
Crows Nest. NSW

DINOSAURS AREN'T EXTINCT

Dear Sir,

Every walk of life has its 'Dinosaurs' and unfortunately, Australian football has more than its fair share. The 'Dinosaurs' I am refereeing to are the Natalija Krsticevic brand of fans who cannot see beyond their ethnic noses.

If they could, they would see Rugby League, Basketball, Aussie Rules and now even Rugby Union grabbing ever larger slices of the Australian sporting cake as far as money and publicity are concerned.

The 'Ethnic Age' has reached its limitations and we are on the verge of a new era — 'The Professional Age'. Only this will enable us to hold on to players like Viduka, Popovic, Lazaridis, Corica etc. But, the 'Professional Age' of Australian football, has to have the support of the Australian public at large, as well as the business community plus, the media! All of them notoriously — NON ETHNIC and ANTI-SOCCER! Hearing football fans howling on about Croatia — or Macedonia only re-enforces their prejudices.

The choice for these 'ultra-ethnic' supporters is a straight-forward one between football and their country of origin. To quite an old cliche in football — 'The Game Is Bigger Than the Individual'. In the present context of what's happening in Australian sport, these petty ethnic-rivalries are just plain and simply — PATHETIC!

Go and fight your battles of Kosovo somewhere else! The BIG BATTLE, one where soccer is fighting for its life — is for a slice of the sports cake against the predators of League, Rules, Union and Basketball. The opposition is too great for the 'ethnics' to fight alone. The very survival of Australian soccer is at stake! If we lose — football here will end up the same way as THE DINOSAURS!

Henry Wizgier,
Forestville. NSW

WHERE DO I...

Dear Sir,

I suggest that maybe ABSW should have a "picture book letters column" based on the famous "Golden Book" publications, to benefit some of our readers who have trouble interpretting people's letters.

Mr Viscontti, you make statements without giving reasons or evidence to back them up (6.6.95). This gives your letter absolutely no substance whatsoever.

WHERE do I state that one ethnic community contributes more than another?

WHERE do I state anything about 'South Melbourne, Heidelberg and West Adelaide soccer emblems'?

WHERE do I state that I have 'never been at a soccer match where they yell out Hellas, Hellas'?

Answer: NO-WHERE.

Mr Viscontti here is some advice — take a course in basic comprehension, and this time actually READ my letter, rather than letting loose with unsubstantiated remarks.

Leon Keramaris,
East Doncaster. Vic.

FLAGS FURORE

Dear Sir,

On the subject of promotion of the National Soccer League, please consider the following points of interest.

*We have South Melbourne, Heidelberg, West Adelaide and Sydney Olympic all wearing the Greek national flag as part of their emblem and/or a configuration of the Greek national colours as their playing strip.

*We have Morwell Falcons, Marconi, Adelaide City, and Melbourne SC all wearing the Italian national flag as part of their emblem and/or a configuration of the Italian national colours as their playing strip.

*We have the Melbourne Knights and Sydney United wearing their Croatian national flag as part of their emblem and/or a configuration for the Croatian national colours as their playing strip.

*We have the Parramatta Eagles wearing the Maltese flag as part of its emblem and the Maltese national colours as their playing strip.

* Unfortunately, we have Brisbane Strikers and Wollongong Wolves as the only NSL clubs with emblems and playing strips that truly represent their city.

Peter Dimovski,
Newcastle. NSW

Australia v Ghana

"ME GOING TO ITALY? WHAT, FOR A HOLIDAY?"

BY ALFRED HIATT

Belgium-based Socceroo Paul Okon, who is almost certain to start for Australia against Ghana at the Sydney Football Stadium this Sunday, is full of confidence coming off a dream season in Europe.

The 23-year-old former Young Socceroo captain has cemented his spot with top Belgian side Club Brugge, which only narrowly missed out on winning the championship.

To cap his most successful season yet, Okon was voted the top foreigner and the third best player overall in Belgium, in a poll of players, coaches and referees.

His form for Club Brugge even attracted the attention of the Italian media, with leading sports magazine Guerin Sportivo naming him — and compatriot Aurelio Vidmar — in a list of the top 100 non-Italian players in Europe.

That led to speculation that he might be leaving Brugge for a Serie A club.

But ask Okon, and he'll tell you his present club have other ideas.

"Me going to Italy? What, for a holiday?" he jokes.

"I have been told by Club Brugge that I'm not for sale. I'm still only 23, and I've just finished my second full season with the team in Brugge, so I'm not in the situation where it's a make-or-break move.

"But if I play next season like I did this season, then it will only be a matter of time before I make a move," he predicts.

German club VFB Stuttgart recently approached the Belgian club for Okon's services, but were told the Socceroo was not available.

However, Okon says Brugge have promised to sit down and discuss transfer options sometime before the end of next season.

Despite his success, Okon has kept his feet on the ground. He admits he is not ready for the step up to the cut-throat Italian league.

"The standard in Belgium is not that high, and that is a big reason why I'm not ready to make a move," says Okon.

"I've made it in Belgium, but I haven't made it in Europe.

"It has been very, very difficult. I've been there four years, but it's only in the last 18 months that people in Belgium have started to acknowledge how good I believe I am."

So far, Belgium has proved a perfect corridor into European football for Okon, since he joined Club Brugge as a raw recruit from Marconi-Fairfield.

He has had to fight his way through injury and long stints in the club's reserve team.

However, he is an advocate of Belgium as a place to start a professional career.

"Everybody speaks English there. And there is time to grow as a football player without pressure being put on you. If you begin in Germany, for example, you don't have the opportunity to feel your way in slowly," he says.

But Okon, whose own transfer from Marconi was investigated by the Stewart Inquiry into corruption in soccer, fears young Aussie players are being priced out of the market by their NSL clubs.

Paul Okon: " I've made it in Belgium, but I haven't made it in Europe."

"Nowadays, Australian players aren't coming so cheap any more.

"If you look back to Eddie Krncevic, he went to Belgium for what you would call very little money, when you compare it to what I see Sydney Croatia are asking for Zeljko Kalac, or what Marconi are asking for Steve Corica.

"The three big clubs in Belgium are Anderlecht, Standard Liege (which is Aurelio's team), and Club Brugge — but there is no way we could afford to buy a Kalac or a Corica."

The market may have dried up for Australian talent, but Okon and Vidmar have made a big impression.

Vidmar, who finished the league's leading scorer, almost inspired Standard Liege to a championship.

For Okon's Brugge, the season began promisingly. But the club did their title ambitions no favour by selling top Nigerian striker Daniel Amokachi to Everton.

Without a consistent striker, the team's challenge faltered, even though the competition went to the last week of the season. Club Brugge had to beat Standard Liege to win it, but two Vidmar goals put paid to their hopes, and Anderlecht sneaked home.

Before beginning next season's hunt for a Belgian championship, Okon will resume his Socceroo career in Sydney.

He has only played once for Australia since the 1993 World Cup qualifiers, a stylish performance in a 1-0 win against South Africa in Adelaide.

The big question is whether coach Eddie Thomson will play Okon as a sweeper, his favoured position, or push him into the midfield role he adopted against the South Africans.

Okon says he is happy to play in midfield, if Thomson chooses Milan Ivanovic or Steve Horvat at the back. But . . .

"I think I would perform better as sweeper. That's where I see my future in Europe. It all depends on what players are available, and where Eddie Thomson wants me."

Although he will not be playing against Ghana in Adelaide or Perth, Okon says he wants to stay involved with the national team, with a World Cup appearance his ultimate ambition.

"We have a great chance to make it to France '98," he maintains.

"I would love to be part of the campaign, but it would have to fit into my career as a professional in Europe."

Juggling club and country commitments are always a problem for the huge number of Australian players plying their trade overseas. But with the Australian Soccer Federation's plans to increase the number of internationals to 16 per year, the chances of players like Okon appearing in the national colours should increase.

"If they want to involve the Euro-based players [the ASF] have to schedule games when European countries play their internationals," he insists.

"If they did that, they wouldn't have too much trouble bringing overseas players back. It's just a question of organisation."

Whatever his Socceroo future, the Sydney public has a rare opportunity to see one of the country's most promising exports in action this Sunday.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC STARTS HUNTING

Eight Players On 'Hit List'

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC has hit the hunting trail in their desperate search to sign up players for the new season.

Most of Olympic's playing staff from last season have already signed up again with the exception of just two.

NSW's new sweeper, Peter Tsekenis and midfielder Branko Milosevic have still not signed.

IAN GRAY: Marconi's former captain.

Tsekenis however is expected to sign a new contract this week before he flies to Brisbane on Saturday with the NSW squad.

Strapped for cash, Olympic is showing uncharacteristic caution as they scan what could be economically available to add to their playing staff.

Giant NSW stopper Nick Orlic, has already been signed from Parramatta Eagles, but Olympic failed to snap up central midfielder Eric Hristodoulou who elected to sign for Marconi.

On Olympic's recent hit-list have been strikers Vaughan Coveny and Kimon Taliadoros, midfielders Walter Ardone and Josip Skoko, defenders Adam Ciantar, Ian Gray and Sony Sevin.

Taliadoros has already had preliminary talks with Olympic last week, but obviously the $43,500 fee Marconi have listed him at has momentarily stopped Olympic in its tracks.

The elegant Coveny has attracted attention from Adelaide City as well as from South Melbourne, but is currently in South America touring with the New Zealand side.

The hard working central midfielder Ardone, currently playing in the NSW Super League with Leichhardt Tigers, is a free agent.

Ardone may be enticed to return back to Olympic where he started his career with before departing two years ago to link up with Parramatta Eagles before then joining Heidelberg United last season.

Parramatta's utility player and NSW's left defender, Ciantar, is another whose name last week was linked with Sydney Olympic.

Marconi's veteran captain Ian Gray who has been listed by his club on a free clearance, is understood to have aspirations of joining Olympic.

Australia's World Youth attacking left midfielder, the highly talented Skoko, despite wild rumours in the Greek media over the past few weeks that he has been signed or approached by Olympic, are far from correct.

Skoko last weekend when contacted, stated clearly that nobody, but nobody from Sydney Olympic had made any approach to him.

However Skoko, who belongs to the North Geelong club in the Victorian State League, has already made plans to make his move to go overseas despite the fact it is understood that the current League champions the Melbourne Knights are more than interested in him.

Skoko is a close friend with the Knights' giant ace-goalscorer Mark Viduka, having both linked up when they were at the A.I.S.

Meanwhile Morwell Falcons' attacking defender Sevin, is still under contract for another season with the Latrobe Valley club and thus has a slim chance, (if any) of joining the Sydney side.

Olympic's newly appointed coach David Ratcliffe, was reluctant to make any brash statements regarding his Club's 'Hunt For Players'.

The phlegmatic Ratcliffe would only cautiously advise to us : "Any club has to be very careful with new signings from now on since last week's decision that was brought down by the Industrial Commission regarding players' transfer fees.

"If all domestic transfers are going to be wiped out next year, why then would you want to pay high transfer fees now and stand to suffer the capital loss in a year?

"I don't want to sign people who will cost our club money and then in a year they will be free.

"We have good strikers such as Norman Tome, Derek Poimer and Kris Trajanovski already on our books.

"Kris has returned from playing in Hong Kong on loan by Olympic, and I would like to have him back here for the new season.

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI: Back from Hong Kong.

"I believe that his true position now would be as an attacking midfielder as he has many constructive qualities.

"This guy can easily fill in for Brad Maloney who currently is on loan for a season playing in China, in case he (Maloney) does not return to Olympic," suggested Ratcliffe.

Meanwhile, Olympic's long discussions and possible plans to shift their home games next season from Leichhardt Oval across town to Belmore Oval, came to a grinding halt late last week.

Canterbury Council was understood to have accepted Olympic as a possible new tenant for Belmore Oval.

But now it seems that the Rugby League club, Canterbury Bulldogs, who play their matches now at the Parramatta Stadium, want to retain their lease at Belmore for next season.

The new C.E.O. Woolley succeed?

Basketball supremo David Woolley will take over next month as the new chief executive officer of the Australian Soccer Federation.

The 50-year-old Woolley became chief executive of Basketball Australia in 1989 and has had considerable prior experience in corporate marketing and management.

He has been signed to a five-year contract which will include the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Woolley was one of the driving forces behind the successful staging last year in Australia of the women's world basketball championships, rated by the International Basketball Federation as one of the best held.

He replaces Ian Holmes in soccer's hot seat with Holmes, who made the initial contact with Woolley to apply for the post, switching to a lesser role.

Woolley will not be a stranger to soccer — he trialed as a youth for English premiership side Aston Villa.

"My role will be to implement and put together the strategies to achieve the objectives of the Federation," said Woolley.

"Problems to me are a challenge and one is not bigger than another.

"We have unparalled talent, some of the finest coaches who don't get true praise and I believe the game is thriving, with enormous goodwill inside and outside the community for soccer to succeed."

The three wise men: Australian coach Eddie Thomson (left), new ASF chief executive David Woolley and chairman David Hill.

Woolley described himself as being a fair person with an open management style and a reasonable approach.

But he added that people would have one chance with him, and after that they would have to show why their decision was the way to go.

"There are some similarities between basketball and soccer as both are true international sports," he said.

"In Australia we have to strengthen the national league and create an environment for players to stay longer as well as bringing others back from overseas.

"Soccer is probably at a watershed but I don't see why it can't succeed and have no doubt the ASF will come up with a winning formula."

ASF chairman David Hill said there had been almost 150 applications for the four administrative positions advertised as part of the federation's restructure.

He said 70 people had expressed an interest in the chief executive officer and there had been 40 applications.

"The ASF board unanimously chose Woolley as the best to apply from a fabulous field of candidates," he said.

"Woolley is one of the most successful sports administrators in the country and takes a lot of credit for the spectacular success of basketball in Australia in the last six years.

"I could not have hoped for a better chief executive to take over at this point in Australia's soccer history."

Kiwis to host World Cup

New Zealand has won the right to host the finals of the world Under 17 soccer championships in 1999.

It will be the first time New Zealand has run a world championship.

And, in a big vote of confidence in Soccer New Zealand (SNZ), it is also the first time soccer's governing body FIFA has allocated the biennial event four years ahead, and without inspecting facilities and grounds.

New Zealand had made a bid for the 1997 championship. However, when FIFA took this year's world under-20 tournament from Nigeria — for health and security reasons — Egypt's 1997 bid for the under-17 event gained weight to keep African nations happy.

Oceania Football Confederation president Charlie Dempsey, a former New Zealand Football Association chairman, offered to withdraw New Zealand's 1997 bid.

The result was a unanimous vote from FIFA in favour of New Zealand holding the 1999 tournament.

Dempsey said FIFA president Joao Havelange pushed for New Zealand to get the finals.

"They took my assurance everything would be in place," Dempsey said.

"It is the biggest thing to ever hit New Zealand football. It is further evidence that Oceania is coming of age very quickly."

Australia hosted the 1993 under-20 tournament and will run the Olympic tournament in 2000.

Northern New South Wales

Troy Halpin

Andy Roberts

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation will bring International soccer to Newcastle when it hosts the Fijian National Team for two fixtures this month.

On Tuesday June 20 local First Division side, Broadmeadow Magic, will play against the Fijians at Adamstown Oval with the main fixture kicking off at 7.30pm.

On Wednesday June 21 a Northern NSW Representative team will challenge the Fijians at Austral Park with the main fixture once again kicking off at 7.30pm.

THE SQUAD

Coach	Ken Kaiser
Ass. Coach:	Bruce Tracey
Goalkeeping Coach:	Trevor Morris
Manager:	Steve Goverd
TEAM:	
Peter Oberhauser	Weston Workers Bears
Clint Gosling	Adamstown Rosebud
Clayton Zane	Adamstown Rosebud
Dean McQuirter	Adamstown Rosebud
Adam Sanderson	Adamstown Rosebud
Corey Filipcevic	Adamstown Rosebud
Andy Roberts	Edgeworth Eagles
Gary Wilson	Highfields
David Lowe	Highfields (captain)
Troy Halpin	Highfields
Ralph Maier	Highfields
Garry Phillips	Brisbane Strikers
David Wilson	West Wallsend
Glenn Moore	West Wallsend
Harry James	Hamilton Warriors
Danny Burt	Cessnock Hornets

Ralph Maier

Clint Gosling

OVER 35s WANTED FOR OVERSEAS TOUR

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

THE FIJIAN SOCCER MASTERS is on again (October-November) at Nadi in Fiji. This will be the second Masters Soccer Challenge for Over 35's, so enter your team now to make certain you don't miss it.

The Fijian Soccer Masters is guaranteed to be an experience of a lifetime, that you'll want to be part of year after year.

Already there has been a great deal of interest for this event in Fiji, both from Australia and several other Pacific nations including Tahiti, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

This tournament gives Over 35s from Australia the chance to experience Soccer in an international environment, and the wonderful opportunity to combine a tropical holiday with your sport in Fiji's friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Sportswell Tours (the official Sydney agents appointed to handle this Soccer Masters) have already received nominations from several NSW, QLD, and Victorian clubs.

Last year saw the inaugural Fijian Soccer Masters won by an Australian team (the Brazilian Old stars from Melbourne) who defeated the local champions Ba in the final.

A select-team also entered by the "Australian & British Soccer Weekly Allstars" last season and skippered by magnificent ball-playing sweeper Alan McNair, ended the tournament by winning the consolation trophy, the "Plate-Award".

The extremely well-organised and experienced Brazilian Old Stars headed up by team-manager and midfielder, Mr Gil Moreia, have already lodged their application with Sportswell Tours recently to enter this year's Masters in Fiji again and defend their title.

Any reader unable to form a team, and one or several of your club members are in fact interested in travelling, Sportswell Tours will be putting together another combined Australia team again.

This was done successfully last year and the majority of this team - "The Australian Soccer Weekly Allstars "are travelling again this year, either with their own team or as part of a new combined side.

Prices start at $975 per person and include return airfares, transfers, seven nights accommodation, presentation dinner and tournament entry and organisation.

Any Australian over - 35 team is eligible to enter. There will be a limit to the number of team entries from Australia to keep the tournament competitive.

Sportswell Tours will be only accepting entries on a first in - first served basis. Your entry will only be secure on receipt of a team deposit of $100 and nomination of entry form.

Extensions to the Coral Coast or an outer Island can be arranged so you may relax and unwind after the Soccer Tournament.

Supporters/family members are very welcome.

All interested in entering yourself or a team, please don't delay!

Contact Nikki now at Sportswell Tours on 262 2499 or toll free on 008 226 442.

For further details, please refer to page 17.

THE ABBAS SAAD TRIAL

Aussie star found guilty but escapes jail

Abbas Saad: "I just want to see my family again and put it in the back of my mind."

BY TED SIMMONS OF AAP

Former Socceroo Abbas Saad, who has been fined $A50,000 by a Singapore court for alleged match-fixing, said last Sunday he had been to hell and back.

"I've lost enough and I've suffered enough over the last four or five months. I just want to see my family again and put it in the back of my mind," he said from Singapore.

"At this stage, I'm not sure what to do next until I confer with my lawyer and the Australian High Commission.

"It was abig shock to be found guilty and I have to get legal advice to find out what's going on."

The 27-year-old Australian was arrested days after a club official and a national player, who have since lodged appeals, were found guilty in March of corruption and sentenced to jail.

A probe into his alleged role in soccer corruption was commenced by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau as scores of players were arrested or questioned in Malaysia over match-fixing. Saad has played professional soccer in Singapore and Malaysia for the past five years and became a national hero when he scored a brilliant hat-trick in Singapore's 4-0 win over Pahang which ended a 14-year wait for the Malaysia Cup.

Czech football star Michael Vana, who jumped bail and fled Singapore last year, was said to have mediated between a bookmaker and Saad, asking the striker to score as many goals as possible.

A bookmaker, whose name was withheld under a court order, testified that Saad agreed to help fix matches so long as his Singapore team won.

"I don't even know who the bookie is who's named in the allegation," said Saad.

"I didn't take any money. How can I fix a game to win when I'm a striker. I give my best in every match.

"Football is my life and I can't let this happen to me. I know I've done nothing wrong."

The Football Association of Singapore, which pulled out of the Malaysian Cup this year and is trying to promote its own professional league, has vowed to stamp out bribery and report all corruption cases to FIFA.

Agence France Presse reports from Singapore that Saad's conviction will mean the end of his career if the international body imposes a worldwide ban.

But AFP described it as "one of the most bizarre cases of the Malaysian match-fixing scandal" because the court was told Saad was never paid and only admitted to agreeing to try to score as many goals as possible.

District judge Khoo Oon Soo said he did not jail Saad because he was a secondary conspirator in the fixing of Malaysian premier league matches last year.

In pronouncing sentence, the judge noted that Saad had acted to help his friend Vana, that he was not paid, and that he backed out after three matches.

Judge Khoo said: "Criminal conspiracy to fix the results of soccer matches cannot be condoned, regardless of whether it is for a win or a loss."

Saad's fans expressed relief that their idol, who could have been jailed for up to five years, had not been sent to prison and showered him with flowers and presents after sentence was passed.

"What a Saad turnaround for Abbas," read the headline on a Straits Times story on Saad's rise and fall as a soccer super star in Singapore.

Players support extended NSL

BY JUSTIN BRASIER OF AAP

Australia's top players are supporting plans to extend the national league season and believe the move will take them a step closer to a fully professional competition.

New Australian Soccer Federation chairman David Hill has revealed plans to expand the fixture from a six to at least nine month competition.

Players, including Socceroos Tony Vidmar and John Markovski, said Hill's announcement for each team to play each other three times had been well received by players.

"Extending it for another three months would be just perfect," said Vidmar.

"A 26-round season just goes too quickly and this will bring us into line with overseas competitions."

The Adelaide City defender, who is set to continue his career in Holland, said the proposal would be a small but important step towards Australia establishing its own full-time professional league.

"This means the players will have only one or two months off which keeps them fit all year round," Vidmar said.

Hill said that the ASF was looking at playing a minimum of 33 to a maximum of 45 rounds for the league, depending if it is a 12 or 16-team competition.

Socceroo and Morwell Falcons striker John Markovski said the extended season would mean footballers won't be idle for up to five months of the year.

"We must have the only league in the world when you have a break of five and a half months," Markovski said.

"We will virtually be getting towards a professional league where we'll be training and playing for 10 months of the year."

John Markovski: He and other top Aussie stars have received the news of an extended NSL fairly well.

Markovski said it may also encourage more Australian stars to remain at home rather than venture overseas to earn good money.

Former Young Socceroo skipper and South Melbourne defender Kevin Muscat said more games would improve the standard of Australian-based players and make it financially easier for them to play soccer full-time.

"Quite a few players rely on soccer for an income so this will be a big help for us," said Muscat.

Strugglers fight for survival

Two of Melbourne's struggling national soccer league clubs, Heidelberg United and Melbourne SC, last week vowed to fight for survival amid plans to establish a revamped competition next season.

Heidelberg United and Melbourne SC are prime candidates for the axe as the league plans to accommodate new teams from Perth, Canberra and Newcastle.

Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) David Hill has warned that some of the older, weaker NSL clubs may not have a future in the remodelled national competition.

Hill also said the NSL did not have to stick rigidly to the concept of 14 teams, and could consider any number from 12 to 16 clubs.

Heidelberg president Peter Tsaklis was defiant, saying his club did not fear the proposed changes and that it was in fact supportive of Hill's initiatives to take the game into the 21st century.

"David is trying to create a new era and with that he needs to have one of the competition's best-supported clubs," Tsaklis said.

The Bergers attracted the second-biggest home and away crowd of last season, when 10,675 fans saw it play South Melbourne in January at Olympic Village.

But Heidelberg has been wooden spooners for the past two seasons, fought a long battle with the local council and the ASF over installing floodlighting at its ground last season and has been battling debt and committee in-fighting through the 1990s.

But Tsaklis said the Bergers were foundation members of the NSL, had a wide following and improving corporate sponsorship and were developing more than 500 junior players.

"How are you going to get rid of the older clubs who have suffered the pain and established the league?" Tsaklis said.

"We've already started work towards rebuilding the club because we know exactly what we have to do. But it all takes time."

Melbourne SC president Peter Balassone believed his club deserved another year's reprieve in the competition to develop a strong supporter base and attract more corporate sponsorship.

The team, formerly known as Brunswick Juventus, has struggled for form and an identity since it was re-admitted to the NSL in 1993.

Although Melbourne SC has produced exciting young players such as Robert Enes, Joe Tricarico and Jim Kourtis, the club has failed to attract membership and last season only averaged 2129 to home games, which included one double header.

"The club has got the biggest community backing in the country. They're not backing them at the moment but the potential is there," Balassone said.

"We've had our problems but we're on the way up.

"I believe that if we are in this year, we'll put it right. If after 12 months we fail then we deserve to be kicked out."

SOCCER FEDERATION
NSW
SOCCER FEDERATION

Champs still in slump

BY VINCE BATTIATO

Last year's losing grand finalists Canterbury Marrickville continued their assault on another top three finish to the season with a hard faught but well deserved 2-0 win over Bonnyrigg White Eagles at Arlington Oval.

With no score on the board at half-time the Berries came out pumped up enough to score five minutes into the second half through John Manolopoulos and secured the three points with a Matthew Percy goal in the 65th minute.

In another hard faught, mid-table clash, St.George drew 1-1 with Mt.Druitt Town at St.George stadium.

The Saints hit the front through youthful sensation Ivo De Jesus, who was brought to the club from Sydney Olympic's youth squad by Peter Katholos, in the 30th minute.

But the Saints couldn't hold on and David Close equalised for the visitors with 13 minutes remaining.

With both sides desperate for points in an effort to sneak into the five, these are vital points dropped for both.

Ron Corry is still waiting for his first victory as the coach of champions Bankstown.

In recent weeks the Lions have thrown away seemingly unbeatable leads and look a real bet to slip out of finals contention unless they find some form... and soon.

The Lions had taken a 1-0 lead with Ozcan Celik netting in the 68th minute but Richard Lloyd equalised for their namesakes from the Illawarra district just nine minutes later.

In other results, a Scott Xuereb hat-trick gave Leichhardt Tigers a 3-1 win over Rockdale with Xuereb's performance nothing short of sensational in a team recently transformed by Tony Pezzano, Macarthur had a 1-0 victory over ailing Stanmore with a goal by ex-Bankstown striker Scott Baillie.

Sutherland drew 0-0 at home to bottom-placed Adamstown while the eagerly awaited top of the table clash between Blacktown and Warringah ended in a disappointing 0-0 draw.

Scott Xuereb: Leichhart Tigers' hat-trick hero.

WEEKEND DRAW

ROUND 18

Friday, 16th June, 1995

Illawarra Lions	v	St George	Brandon Park	7.45pm

Saturday 17th June, 1995

Bonnyrigg WE	v	Blacktown City	Serbian Centre	6.00pm
Warringah	v	Macarthur	Cromer Park	3.00pm
Rockdale Suns	v	Adamstown	Rock/Ilinden Spt C.	3.00pm
Mt Druitt Town	v	Canterbury	Popondetta Park	7.00pm
Bankstown City	v	Sutherland	Jensen Park	3.00pm
Stanmore	v	Leichhardt	St George Stad.	7.00pm

1ST DIVISION ROUND 15

Saturday 17th June, 1995

Mt Pritchard	v	Hills United	Cook Park	3.00pm
Fairfield Bulls	v	Belmore	Ninevah Field	3.00pm
Dulwich Hill	v	Auburn United	Arlington Oval	3.00pm
W Wanderers	v	Sydney Cos	Chopin Park	3.00pm
Ryde City	v	Liverpool City	Francis Park	3.00pm
Central Coast	v	Sthn Minotaurs	Pluim Park	6.00pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885 (max. call cost 70c/min.)

ROUND 17
SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

*Mt Mruitt Town	N/A	Warringah	N/A
**Blacktown City	N/A	Adamstown R'bud	N/A
Macarthur Rams	1	Stanmore Hawks	0
Leichhardt Tigers	3	Rockdale Suns	1
Sutherland Sharks	0	Adamstown R'bud	0
Blacktown City	0	Warringah	0
Canterbury Berries	2	Bonnyrigg WE	0
St George	1	Mt Druitt Town	1
Bankstown City	1	Illawarra Lions	1

*Deferred match from Round 12
**Deferred match from Round 14

UNDER 21

*Mt Mruitt Town	N/A	Warringah	N/A
**Blacktown City	2	Adamstown R'bud	0
Macarthur Rams	0	Stanmore Hawks	0
Leichhardt Tigers	2	Rockdale Suns	2
Sutherland Sharks	1	Adamstown R'bud	0
Blacktown City	4	Warringah	1
Canterbury Berries	1	Bonnyrigg WE	1
St George	1	Mt Druitt Town	0
Bankstown City	2	Illawarra Lions	2

*Deferred match from Round 12
**Deferred match from Round 14

UNDER 18

*Mt Mruitt Town	0	Warringah	1
**Blacktown City	2	Adamstown R'bud	0
Macarthur Rams	1	Stanmore Hawks	0
Leichhardt Tigers	3	Rockdale Suns	0
Sutherland Sharks	2	Adamstown R'bud	7
Blacktown City	3	Warringah	0
Canterbury Berries	2	Bonnyrigg WE	1
St George	2	Mt Druitt Town	1
Bankstown City	1	Illawarra Lions	2

*Deferred match from Round 12
**Deferred match from Round 14

SUPER LEAGUE 1ST GRADE

Blacktown City	16	11	1	1	3	24	10	14	36
Warringah	15	9	3	1	2	27	11	16	34
Leichhardt Tigers	16	7	2	4	3	19	12	7	29
Canterbury M'vill	15	7	3	2	3	18	16	2	29
Bankstown City	15	6	5	0	4	31	25	6	26
Sutherland Sharks	16	7	0	5	4	20	18	2	26
Macarthur Rams	16	6	2	2	6	13	18	-5	24
St George Saints	15	4	5	1	5	21	23	-2	23
Rockdale Suns	15	5	4	0	6	17	19	-2	23
Mt Druitt Town	16	5	3	1	7	25	29	-4	22
Bonnyrigg Eagles	16	5	2	0	9	22	23	-1	19
Illawarra Lions	16	4	3	1	8	22	32	-10	19
Stanmore Hawks	16	2	2	2	10	10	25	-15	12
Adamstown R'bud	15	2	1	2	10	12	20	-8	10

**Bankstown City Lions to be deducted 4 points at the end of the season

UNDER 21

Blacktown City	16	13	2	1	0	40	9	31	44
Bonnyrigg Eagles	15	9	5	0	1	47	13	34	37
Leichhardt Tigers	16	9	3	0	4	34	23	11	33
Bankstown City	14	8	3	0	3	32	20	12	30
Adamstown R'bud	15	7	2	1	5	18	14	4	26
Canterbury M'vill	15	5	5	0	5	23	28	-5	25
Sutherland Sharks	16	8	0	0	8	26	29	-3	24
Rockdale Suns	15	6	2	1	6	30	28	2	23
Warringaha Dolphin	15	6	2	0	7	28	25	3	22
Macarthur Rams	16	3	5	1	7	27	35	-8	20
Mt Druitt Town	16	4	3	1	8	16	28	-12	19
Stanmore Hawks	16	4	2	1	9	11	31	-20	17
Illawarra Lions	16	3	3	0	10	23	53	-30	15
St George Saints	15	1	1	0	13	10	29	-19	5

UNDER 18

Blacktown City	16	14	0	0	2	64	8	56	42
St George Saints	15	8	5	0	2	21	14	7	34
Canterbury M/vill	15	7	4	1	3	29	22	7	30
Adamstown R'bud	15	8	2	0	5	35	21	14	28
Sutherland Sharks	16	8	1	1	6	32	26	6	27
Macarthur Rams	16	7	3	0	6	24	26	-2	27
Mt Druitt Town	16	8	0	2	6	28	15	13	26
Bankstown City	14	6	2	2	4	28	20	8	24
Bonnyrigg Eagles	15	3	7	0	5	28	28	0	23
Rockdale Suns	15	7	1	0	7	27	28	-1	23
Leichhardt Tigers	16	5	2	0	9	21	42	-21	19
Warringah	15	4	3	0	8	14	27	-13	18
Stanmore Hawks	16	1	4	0	11	17	42	-25	11
Illawarra Lions	16	1	2	0	13	14	63	-49	11

ROUND 14
FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE

Belmore Hercules	0	Central Coast	4
Minotaurs	1	Ryde City	2
Hills United	3	Dulwich Hill	0
Auburn United	1	Fairfield Bulls	1
Liverpool City	1	West Wanderers	1
Sydney Cosmos	0	Mt Pritchard	0

UNDER 21

Belmore Hercules	1	Central Coast	2
Minotaurs	1	Ryde City	1
Hills United	5	Dulwich Hill	2
Auburn United	4	Fairfield Bulls	1
Liverpool City	1	West Wanderers	3
Sydney Cosmos	2	Mt Pritchard	2

UNDER 18

Belmore Hercules	2	Central Coast	2
Minotaurs	1	Ryde City	4
Hills United	0	Dulwich Hill	1
Auburn United	4	Fairfield Bulls	0
Liverpool City	0	West Wanderers	4
Sydney Cosmos	2	Mt Pritchard	7

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE

Central Coast	14	11	0	0	3	49	10	39	33
Auburn United	14	9	3	0	2	35	19	16	33
Ryde City Gunners	14	9	2	0	3	33	20	13	31
Fairfield Bulls	14	8	2	1	3	33	17	16	29
Belmore Hercules	12	6	2	0	4	25	26	-1	22
Minotaur	13	6	2	0	5	17	18	-1	22
Dulwich Hill	14	3	5	1	5	23	27	-4	20
Hills United	12	5	2	0	5	19	12	7	19
Mt Pritchard	14	4	2	1	7	26	25	1	17
West Wanderers	14	4	2	0	8	20	35	-15	16
Sydney Cosmos	13	2	2	1	8	9	20	-11	11
Liverpool City	14	0	0	0	14	11	71	-60	0

ROUND 14
FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE

*Parramatta City	N/A	Trasandinos	N/A
Bankstown Spts	2	Bathurst '75	3
Concord Juniors	3	Parramatta City	0
Greenville Green/l	0	Trasandinos	0
Penrith Panthers	3	Colo Colo	0
Sydney District	P	Hurstville	P
Uni of NSW	4	St John's Park	2

*Deferred match from Round 12

UNDER 21

*Parramatta City	N/A	Trasandinos	N/A
Bankstown Spts	1	Bathurst '75	1
Concord Juniors	1	Parramatta City	1
Greenville Green/l	1	Trasandinos	4
Penrith Panthers	3	Colo Colo	1
Sydney District	P	Hurstville	P
Uni of NSW	2	St John's Park	0

*Deferred match from Round 12

UNDER 18

*Parramatta City	4	Trasandinos	1
Bankstown Spts	0	Bathurst '75	3
Concord Juniors	1	Parramatta City	4
Greenville Green/l	0	Trasandinos	4
Penrith Panthers	1	Colo Colo	1
Sydney District	P	Hurstville	P
Uni of NSW	0	St John's Park	3

*Deferred match from Round 12

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE

Penrith Panthers	14	8	5	0	1	31	16	15	34
Granville Green/l	14	7	3	1	13	22	18	4	28
Bathurst '75	14	6	1	1	4	24	17	7	27
Bankstown Spts	13	6	4	0	3	35	20	15	26
Hurstville	13	7	0	2	4	19	12	7	23
Concord Jnrs	14	6	2	1	5	29	23	6	23
Trasandinos	13	5	3	1	4	24	33	-9	22
Uni of NSW	14	5	2	2	5	26	22	4	21
Parramatta City	14	1	6	2	5	17	25	-8	17
Colo Colo	14	2	4	0	8	10	22	-12	14
Sydney District	12	2	2	0	8	17	28	-11	10
St Johns Park	13	2	2	0	9	20	38	-18	10

ROUND 14

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE

*Sporting SSC	3	AC United	3
**Gladesville United	2	Greystanes	1
**Earlwood Hermes	1	White City	3
Moorebank Spts	P	Gladesville Utd	P
Hakoah	1	Sporting SSC	0
White City	0	Greystanes	1
Alexandria Warr	1	Earlwood Hermes	1
AC United	4	Sporting Club M'ville	0
Prospect United	0	Prairiewood Utd	4

*Deferred match from Round 9
**Deferred matches from Round 11

SECOND GRADE

*Sporting SSC	1	AC United	7
**Gladesville United	1	Greystanes	2
**Earlwood Hermes	1	White City	1
Moorebank Spts	P	Gladesville Utd	P
Hakoah	2	Sporting SSC	0
White City	0	Greystanes	2
Alexandria Warr	3	Earlwood Hermes	3
AC United	0	Sporting Club M'ville	0
Prospect United	2	Prairiewood Utd	2

*Deferred match from Round 9
**Deferred matches from Round 11

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE

Gladesville Utd	13	9	3	0	1	41	14	27	33
Hakoah	14	7	5	1	1	27	11	16	32
Greystanes	14	10	0	1	3	32	11	21	31
White City	14	8	2	0	4	31	20	11	28
Alexandria	14	4	6	1	3	20	14	6	25
Prairiewood	14	5	3	1	5	18	19	-1	22
Prospect United	14	4	4	1	5	29	27	2	21
AC United	13	4	4	0	5	21	26	-5	20
Earlwood Hermes	14	4	4	0	6	28	38	-10	20
Moorebank	12	4	1	0	7	20	30	-10	14
Sporting M'ville	14	1	2	1	10	14	40	-26	8
Sporting SSC	14	0	4	0	10	14	45	-31	8

ROUND 11

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR
FIRST GRADE

*Springwood	2	CSI Schofields	4
CSI Schofields	P	Sydney Uni	P
Glebe Wanderers	2	Hawkesbury City	2
The Wanderers	4	Balmain	1
Lithgow Workmen	3	Springwood	1

*Deferred match from Round 8

SECOND GRADE

*Springwood	3	CSI Schofields	0
CSI Schofields	P	Sydney Uni	P
Glebe Wanderers	1	Hawkesbury City	1
The Wanderers	2	Balmain	3
Lithgow Workmen	0	Springwood	1

*Deferred match from Round 8

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR
FIRST GRADE

Glebe Wanderers	7	6	1	0	0	23	9	14	20
The Wanderers	9	5	2	0	2	21	11	10	19
Hawkesbury	9	4	3	0	2	17	12	5	18
CSI Schofields	8	3	2	1	2	15	10	5	14
Canley Vale	9	3	2	1	3	15	20	-5	14
Springwood	8	3	1	0	4	12	18	-6	11
Balmain	10	2	1	1	6	14	21	-7	9
Lithgow Workmen	8	2	0	1	5	6	19	-13	7
Sydney Uni	8	2	0	0	6	14	17	-3	6

ROUND 11

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE
FIRST GRADE

*Jamisontown	P	Arncliffe Lions	P
Abbotsford	P	Marrickville	P
Angels L'pool Utd	P	United Eagles	P
Jamisontown	0	Austral Racing	2
St Joseph's	0	Fairfield Kings	4

SECOND GRADE

*Jamisontown	P	Arncliffe Lions	P
Abbotsford	P	Marrickville	P
Angels L'pool Utd	P	United Eagles	P
Jamisontown	1	Austral Racing	1
St Joseph's	0	Fairfield Kings	1

ROUND 13
FEDERATION DIVISION SIX
FIRST GRADE

**Ashbury	3	ACPE/UWS Nepean	4
Queens Park	P	Maroubra Utd	P
Bossy	P	Blacktown United	P
Nepean Districts	5	ACPE/UWS Nepean	0
Kingsford	3	Ashbury	0

SECOND GRADE

Queens Park	P	Maroubra Utd	P
Bossy	P	Blacktown United	P
Nepean Districts	5	ACPE/UWS Nepean	0

*Deferred matches from Round 3
**Deferred matches from Round 10

ROUND 11
WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE

Gladesville Ravens	P	Marconi	P
NSW ITC	P	UWS Macarthur	P
Sydney Olympic	P	Sutherland Shire	P
Cronulla	P	Liverpool City	P

SECOND GRADE

Gladesville Ravens	P	Marconi	P
NSW ITC	P	UWS Macarthur	P
Sydney Olympic	P	Sutherland Shire	P
Cronulla	P	Liverpool City	P

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SPORTSCENE

Magic spell on finals

Or another late season disappearing act?

BY GREG BLAKE

Not surprisingly Altona Magic's to date moderate success in 1995 has gone largely unheralded.

Magic's rise has either been overshadowed by the remarkable success of top dogs Port Melbourne, or the club has generally been dismissed as a serious threat in Premier League circles on the basis of past history.

Either way, the current second-placed side is being ignored and perceived as little more than a bit player for the finals behind established powers Port, Bulleen and Sunshine Georgies.

Coach Ian Dobson himself is quite happy with that, even if the truth is that the under-achievers from Paisley Park appear poised for a genuine title tilt for the first time.

The state coach has no problems with not being taken seriously. "I'm quite happy with that," he says.

"Last year we set the pace and then fell away over the last two or three games.

"This time around I believe we are much better placed."

Last season was a heart-breaker for the Paisley Park-ites, the team playing some devistating stuff at times and sitting top three virtualty all year before crashing when it counted.

Magic inexplicably lost its last two games, missed the finals double chance on goal difference and, fielding a team minus stars Peter Nicoski and John Markovski, bombed in the opening week eliminator 1-0 to Sunshine.

The fade-out was a stunner at the end of a super year, yet not completely out of character for a club which has always invigorated with its flair and style without offering any substantial championship challenge.

Robert Runje: Coming off the injured list as the finals loom.

This year promises a far more palatable conclusion, with loan star Markovski signed to play right through the finals, the probable return of Ice Kutlesovski and a squad one player shy of full strength going into the business end of the campaign.

"Let's put it this way, we're not looking at strengthening any more," explains Dobson.

"I think we are in a good position now.

"Our only likely weakness is in midfield and we are looking forward to having George Petrov back in."

Petrov, still five or six weeks away with knee ligament problems, is the last of the long term injured due to return.

Magic's shaky start to the season coincided with the losses of Robert Runje (9 weeks), Henry Velkovski (10) and Paul Harris.

As the team has settled the results have come, with Dobson's men sitting comfortably in second place only because Port has continued to win just as regularly.

"We've certainly turned the corner since early season," says the coach.

"Initially we had a few problems at the back but that's been ironed out and we've had something like five clean sheets in six games.

"I didn't really expect to be second at this time of the season, but now we're in a position that if we can get maximum points from our next four games we can't drop out of the top five.

"We're not looking at catching Port Melbourne, the goal is second or third and the double chance."

Magic's already potent attack shapes as league best as Dobson gets set to juggle his explosive quartet of current league top scorer Vaso Trpcevski, Markovski, Nick Georgeopoulos and probably Kutlesovski, the club's top gun of the past two seasons who has just returned from a stint in Hong Kong.

"At this stage Ice does not want to return to Hong Kong, although his club there has his registration for another year," Dobson explained.

"He's training with us, but at this stage he's still got to sort everything out."

Dobson believes that as the pieces have started to fall into place the club has signalled its intent by securing Markovski, who was also chased by Bulleen and Sunshine.

"When we sat down at the start of the year the club's expectations were that they just wanted to finish as high as possible," he said.

"But, those in the know might have expected mid-table at best back then.

"Clearly, by getting Markovski they've indicated that they've seen something there and they believe they can do something.

Paul Harris

"It's my experience that's the time you can get kicked in the teeth. I don't want the players to feel those expectations."

The boys from Paisley Park have a history of substituting style for substance, although Dobson may have finally conjured a lethal recipe combining both ingredients.

However, only finals success in 1995 will ensure both opponents and supporters alike can finally take Altona Magic seriously.

Vics chase fame and fortune

The Victorian Soccer Federation has aimed its sights on two potential sponsorship deals, worth anything up to $500,000.

And the possible windfall could help clinch television coverage for the publicity-starved Victorian Premier League.

I understand the federation is close to closing at least one of the two sponsorship deals, with a body already closely associated with sport in Victoria.

VSF chairman Henry Siwka was unable to comment on the potentially lucrative sponsorship deals.

However, he did say that television coverage for Victorian soccer was almost certain.

"I can tell you that (TV coverage) will go ahead at some stage," he said last week.

The VSF has been quietly negotiating weekly television coverage on UHF channel 31 — Melbourne's newest public access station — for some time.

The station has already attained some considerable sporting profile with its coverage of Melbourne harness racing each Saturday night.

Any new sponsorship deals would help finance the expenses of TV coverage.

TV coverage is expected to commence in two or three weeks, although I believe that may be dependant on sponsorship dollars for the federation.

A pilot television programme, consisting of an hour of talk, weekend match results and details and premier League game highlights was recorded some weeks ago.

Premier league clubs have expressed concern that the competition is without a naming rights sponsor for 1995.

The demise of Sunlighting-Holophane as major sponsor at the end of last season has meant a reduction of prizemoney for clubs making the finals.

One club official says he believes prizemoney for the top clubs could be halved this year.

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

STATE ONE

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Clarinda	v	Oakleigh

SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE

Westgate	v	Richmond
Caulfield City	v	Northcote City
Br'meadows City	v	Knox City
Frankston Pines	v	Thomastown Devils
Croydon City	v	Lalor United
Bentleigh Greens	v	Western Suburbs

STATE TWO

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Ringwood City	v	Regent Bulla
Altona East	v	Moorabbin City
Bell Park	v	Waverley City
Nunawading City	v	Altona City
Chelsea	v	Spr. White Eagles
Ess. Brun. Royals	v	Clifton Hill
East Richmond	v	Mooroolbark

STATE THREE

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Sandringham City	v	Banyule
Pascoe Vale	v	Seaford Utd
Sunbury Utd	v	Sth Dandenong
Keilor Eagles	v	Frankston
Sth Werribee	v	Westvale
Sth Caulfield	v	Melbourne City
Elt Dia Valley	v	Fitzroy City

STATE FOUR

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Monbulk	v	Stonnington City
Langwarrin	v	Sth Wantirna
Yarraville	v	Sth Springvale
Doveton	v	Nth Coburg Utd
Corio	v	Geelong
Cranbourne	v	Williamstown
Brighton	v	Sunshine Heights

PROVISIONAL ONE

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Moreland City	v	Heidelberg City
Glenroy	v	Lalor
Nth Sunshine	v	Mitcham Utd
Dandenong	v	Melton
Knox Park	v	Geel. Rangers
Ballarat	v	Old Scotch
Brandon Park	v	Spring. Condors

PROVISIONAL TWO

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 14

Hoppers Cr'sing	v	Lyndale Utd
Hampton Pk Utd	v	Keysborough
Brunswick City	v	Meadow Park
Braeside Utd	v	Monash Uni.
East Nun. Eagles	v	Mornington
Berwick City	v	Nth Glenroy
Broadmeadows Utd	v	South Yarra

PROVISIONAL THREE NORTH WEST

SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE ROUND 9

Nth Reservoir	v	Mill Park
North Utd	v	Latrobe Uni
Sunshine Park	v	Keon Park
Sydenham Park	v	Diamond Valley
Upfield	v	Darebin Utd
West Preston	v	Whittlesea Utd

PROVISIONAL THREE METRO

SATUREDAY, 17TH JUNE ROUND 10

Parkmore	v	Uni Melb Blues
Ashburton	v	Yallourn
Endheavour Utd	v	T'stowe Eagles
Keilor Utd	v	Riversdale
Melb Uni Rangers	v	Ringwood Rovers
Carrum Utd	v	Elwood City

PRO. THREE STH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE ROUND 9

Nth Caulfield	v	Endeavour Hills
Oakleigh Utd	v	Wantirna
RMIT	v	East Kew
Flem. Falcons	v	Collingwood City
Thornbury	v	Cam. Gram. Old Boys
Wav. Wanderers	v	Ivanhoe Utd

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887 — SUNDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE
◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional League Divisions 4&5
(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

0055 38878 — SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE
◆ Premier League
◆ State League Divisions 1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

0055 38898 — SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE
◆ State League Division 4
◆ Provisional League Divisions 1-3
(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

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VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

DANNY GETS TOUGH

BY NICK TZAFERIS

Danny Gnjidic probably knows that his time in establishing himself as a N.S.L. senior player is running out fast.

At 21, Gnjidic will play his fourth season for Heidelberg over the summer, if in fact they agree on terms.

After three years of highs, but many more lows, at Olympic Village, Gnjidic is determined to establish himself in Andy Bozikas' first choice side. But permanent interest from Fawkner and a desire for regular football may mean that Gnjidic will snuff the Bergers and stay on at Jukes Road.

Currently on loan to Fawkner, Gnjidic has made a committment to the club that he'll stay for the whole Premier League season.

"I made an agreement with Heidelberg and Fawkner that I'd play the full season." Gnjidic said.

"I didn't want to play just seven or eight games, I wanted to feel part of everything that the club is going to achieve. That way you're more committed and you care more."

Technically, Gnjidic is on loan with Fawkner only until the end of June but he values the agreement he made with Fawkner in playing out the full season. Gnjidic's contract with Heidelberg comes up for renewal at the end of June, but if nothing eventuates from that it will be likely that Fawkner will purchase him outright.

Gnjidic seems to have special affinity with Fawkner. After all, they gave him his big break, signing him from Westgate for a meagre $700.00

A season of Premier League with Fawkner and a haul of 11 goals saw Gary Cole swiftly secure him for Heidelberg United.

After a home debut against South Melbourne at just 19, a run of regular appearances were strung together and Gnjidic had hit the big time. It was short lived however, with Gary McDowall and then Dragan Sekularac taking over at the Village. McDowall immediately demoted Gnjidic from the role of senior striker to the youth team, while Sekularac used his talent sparingly.

"I had just been dropped from the youth side before Seki came. He found me on the bench and that's where he kept me."Gnjidic said.

A bag of five goals in his first season with Heideberg was enough to give him another shot at the club.

However, five goals in pre-season cup games the following season was still not enough to impress Sekularac Gnjidic duly took his position on the sidelines.

"If I felt I wasn't good enough I would've given it away a long time ago with Heidelberg. I would've just said I'm wasting my time here."

Gnjidic eventually played six successive full games for Heidelberg in this second season with them, before being loaned out to Green Gully. Peter Tsaklis, Heidelberg's president renewed his faith in Gnjidic by thwarting a permanent transfer.

Sekularac thought highly of Gnjidic despite minimising his opportunities. He was however, critical of Gnjidic's upbringing through the junior ranks.

"He always asked who were my junior coaches," Gnjidic said.

"He said it's a shame because you've got the build, the nose for goal and all that sort of stuff.

"You're a kid and you just want to play and you listen to some panelbeater who says don't kick the ball with your fingers."

Gnjidic returned for a third season at Heidelberg this time under Mike Urukalo and Andy Bozikas. In 11 appearances of which four were as substitute he scored three times including a couple that sunk Parramatta Eagles. He was then given permission to join Fawkner for this season and his contribution has been vital in keeping Fawkner in the hunt this winter. He is frustrated though, with the team's inability to realise their potential.

"This team is definite championship material."

"I was speaking to someone after we lost to Bulleen 3-0 at home and he said, "Take your team and Port Melbourne's as individuals. If any of these boys come over here, not one of them could replace any of your players."

A coaching change midyear say nice guy Les Carter was replaced by Tony Vrzina but Gnjidic endorses both coaches talents.

Of Les Carter , Gnjidic said: "He is a top guy and an astute coach to say the least. But he was too genuine, too nice and was too soft on the boys which brought around his downfall."

Gnjidic equally praises his new mentor, Tony Vrzina.

"Tony communicates well, he let's you know what he wants."

"He's got a lot of time for me and I've got a lot of time for him."

According to Gnjidic, Fawkner are finals material but realises they must play to their full ability.

"What's been frustrating is that we're such a good team but we've only played two and a half decent games this season."

"We beat Altona Magic 3-0 and you see them second (on the table)."

"It's gut wrenching because we totally outplayed them and hit crossbars and posts."

THIS WEEKS VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES

SATURDAY
Altona Magic -v Box Hill
SUNDAY
Albion Redsox v Doncaster Rovers
Werribee Bees v Sunshine Georgies
Springvale City Vales v North Geelong Warriors
Green Gully Cavaliers v Fawkner Blues
Preston v Bulleen Lions
St. Albans v Port Melb.

THERE WERE NO PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES LAST WEEKEND.

Premier League LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
PORT MELBOURNE	16	13	3	0	36	9	42
ALTONA MAGIC	16	10	2	4	25	18	32
BULLEEN LIONS	16	6	6	4	18	15	24
ALBION REDSOX	16	7	3	6	16	21	24
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	15	6	5	4	20	15	23
ST ALBANS SAINTS	16	6	4	6	23	17	22
FAWKNER BLUES	16	6	3	7	14	19	21
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	16	5	5	6	18	18	20
NTH GEELONG WARRIORS	15	5	4	6	18	15	19
PRESTON LIONS	16	4	6	6	18	20	18
SPRINGVALE CITY VALES	15	4	4	7	17	28	16
WERRIBEE BEES	15	3	5	7	17	25	14
BOX HILL INTER	16	3	4	9	12	20	13
DONCASTER ROVERS	16	2	6	8	10	22	12

TOP SCORERS

12 V Trpcesvki (Altona M)
8 G. Sviges (Port Melb.)
N.Tsaltas (Port Melb.)
7 J. Surk (Werribee)
D. Genovesi (G. Gully)
T.Pondoljak (St Albans)
D. White (Bulleen)
6 D. Gnjidic (Fawkner)
T. Calle (Springvale)
S. Becvinovski (Preston)
T. Rizopoulos (Pt Melb.)

TOP VOTES

ABSW PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

16 – S Rusmir (Port Melbourne)
15 – G Stenson (Sunshine)
14 – Z Markovski (Green Gully)
13 – Emsovski (Altona)
T Pondoljak (St Albans)
12 – V Trpcevski (Altona)
R Brian (Albion)
11 – N Papadopoulos (Pt Melbourne)
10 – J Androulidakis (Werribee)
A Sherifovski (Sunshine)
G Lenetis (Bulleen)
9 – Z Mihaljovic (springvale)
G Dimovski (North Geelong)
P Harris (Altona)
G Svigos (Port Melbourne)
R Ferla (Sunshine)
M Branov (Fawkner)
8 – A Deak (North Geelong)
D Fak (Port Melbourne)
S Beevinovski Preston
T Neceski Green Gully
7 – F Pansino Box Hill
A Roodhous Box Hill
P Jurcic St albans
P Bordingnon Fawkner
O Fehmi Albion
C Daglaras Sunshine
M Trupkovic (North Geelong)
J Skoko North Geelong
R Liparotti Bulleen
6 – J Nilo Springvale
C Lewis Sunshine
Z Donev Preston
J McBride Doncaster
D McGrath Altona
D White Bulleen
P Wade Bulleen
M Collins Albion
F Bot North Geelong
I Jolic St Albans
N Tsaltas Port Melbourne
J Dimitrellos Port Melbourne
P Donnelly Werribee
5 – T Selemides Springvale
J Tricarico Green Gully
S Guscic Box Hill
C Tetre Fawkner
E Jansen Fawkner
D Gugulemi Box Hill
A Gurpina Albion
S Micevski Altona
S Chiodo Preston
I Colina St Albans
T Markovski Altona
N Cuculevski Preston
4 – A pender Preston
C Lucchesi Albion
D Hennessy Doncaster
D Nolan Springvale
M Lennon Springvale
J Kanesoulis Sunshine
K Smart Werribee
S Rados St Albans
M Colina St Albans
R Minichello Fawkner
C Jones Springvale
J Melrose Sunshine
C Fitzpatrick
R Cosic North Geelong
I Calderwood Werribee
3 – B Roberts Springvale
P Spiteri Green Gully
A Humble Doncaster
J Berdonis Doncaster
G Clarke Doncaster
D Ristevski Doncaster
A McGeachey Doncaster
A Greenwood Donaster
J Olver Bulleen
P Di Iorio Bulleen
T Calle Springvale
P Santalucia Fawkner
T Schipano Fawkner
Z Trajceski Preston
B Kules North Geelong
S Field Sunshine
M Vesnaver Albion
F Valentic Bulleen
R Trosie Bulleen
R Stojcevski Preston
R Napoli Werribee
P Stojcevski Werribee
M Wilson Albion
S Sevin Albion
G Kuyuccuogullari Albion
G Petrov Altona
K Micallef Green Gully
C Sant Green Gully
T Rizopoulos Port Melbourne
C Argyriou Port Melbourne
P Babic St Albans
D Maglovski Green Gully
J Podgeorski Fawkner
C Cubitt Preston
G Frezzini Box Hill
2 – H Velkovski Altona
R Runje Altona
B Chalmers Preston
R Spasevski Preston
R Lakovski Preston
D Genoveski Green Gully
Z Atanasovski Altona
T Liakos St Albans
R Krajacic Bulleen
A Kiratzoglou Sunshine
T Simsek Albion
J Geri Springvale
A Gymnopoulos Green Gully
N Wallace DOnaxter
A Giordano Fawkner
J Goulis Fawkner
M Lilikakis Port Melbourne
S Chetcuti Green Gully
J Campelj Green Gully
L Osman Albion
G Inserra Werribee
P Traianides Preston
M Ovens Doncaster
D Tartaglia Box Hill
1 – T Sonsini Bulleen
P Recchia Fawkner
J Pasakos Port Melbourne
D Craig Springvale
Z Gagula St Albans
P Head Werribee
R Milanovic St Albans
D Scoble Green Gully
M Mazzini box Hill
D Gnjidic Fawkner
T Spina Springvale
R Mikulic St Albans
P Impellizzeri Box Hill
N Palamaras Port Melbourne
N Drougas Port Melbourne
M Tasevski Altona
P Lutgens Bulleen
T Rajkovski Preston
R Gilmour Werribee
A Grbac Bulleen
C Castro Box Hill

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VICTORIAN LADDERS

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Gr. Gully Cavil.	15	11	2	2	35	18	35
Preston Lions	16	10	0	6	45	21	30
Fawkner Blues	16	9	3	4	38	28	30
St Alb. Saints	16	8	5	3	32	22	29
Bulleen Lions	15	8	3	4	32	22	27
Altona Magic	15	8	2	5	26	23	26
Pt Melb. Sharks	15	7	2	6	23	24	23
Werribee Bees	15	6	4	5	22	14	22
Sun. Georgies	15	6	3	6	24	23	21
Spr. City Vales	15	4	5	6	22	25	17
Don'ter Rovers	16	3	6	7	25	34	15
Box Hill Inter	16	4	2	10	23	38	14
Nt Geel. Warrior	15	2	2	11	11	37	8
Albion Redsoxs	16	1	3	12	21	52	6

STATE ONE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Thomas. Devils	12	8	3	1	27	17	27
Lalor United	12	8	2	2	21	13	26
Bent. Greens	12	7	3	2	28	15	24
Clarinda	12	5	4	3	23	16	19
Richmond	12	6	1	5	24	26	19
West Suburbs	12	6	3	3	16	12	18
Croydon City	12	5	3	4	20	19	15
Westgate	12	4	3	5	18	18	15
Northcote City	12	4	4	4	17	17	13
Caulfield City	12	3	4	5	16	20	13
Oakleigh	12	4	0	8	14	23	12
Broadmeadows	12	2	3	7	18	21	9
Frank. Pines	12	2	3	7	14	20	9
Knox City	12	1	2	9	11	30	5

STATE ONE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	12	8	2	2	43	19	26
Th'town Devils	12	8	2	2	25	15	26
Oakleigh	12	6	4	2	27	16	22
Bent. Greens	11	6	4	1	23	13	22
Northcote City	12	7	1	4	28	27	19
Knox City	12	5	3	4	26	17	18
Frank. Pines	12	4	4	4	22	21	16
Lalor Utd	11	4	2	5	16	15	14
Broadmeadows	11	4	2	5	17	27	14
Caulfield City	12	3	4	5	22	22	13
Clarinda	11	3	3	5	20	18	12
Westgate	12	3	0	9	26	40	9
West. Suburbs	12	3	2	7	21	31	8
Croydon City	12	1	1	10	9	44	1

STATE TWO FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moorabbin City	12	8	4	0	25	6	28
Waverley City	12	8	3	1	28	7	27
Sp. White Eagles	12	8	3	1	28	10	27
Ess. Brun. Royals	12	8	4	0	34	16	25
Regent Bulla	12	4	5	3	20	15	17
East Richmond	12	4	4	4	10	16	16
Altona East	12	4	3	5	17	12	15
Bell Park	12	4	3	5	13	19	15
Chelsea	12	4	2	6	17	23	14
Ringwood City	12	3	2	7	13	20	11
Altona City	12	2	4	6	11	25	10
Nunawading City	12	1	6	5	8	20	9
Mooroolbark	12	1	5	6	11	28	8
Clifton Hill	12	1	0	11	7	25	3

STATE TWO RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moorabbin City	12	10	2	0	39	10	32
Waverley City	12	9	0	3	40	12	27
Altona City	12	9	0	3	38	20	27
Sp. White Eagles	12	8	1	3	23	12	25
Regent Bulla	12	7	2	3	41	17	23
Ess. Brun. Royals	12	7	3	2	28	10	21
Altona East	12	4	2	6	12	26	14
Ringwood City	12	4	0	8	21	28	12
East Richmond	12	3	3	6	18	33	12
Clifton Hill	12	3	2	7	10	18	11
Mooroolbark	12	3	1	8	18	28	10
Nunawading City	12	3	1	8	10	27	10
Bell Park	12	3	1	8	10	37	10
Chelsea	12	1	2	9	11	41	5

STATE THREE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	12	9	2	1	39	12	29
Sth Dandenong	12	8	3	1	31	10	27
Sth Werribee	12	7	3	2	23	16	24
Melb. City	12	7	2	3	23	16	23
Sth Caulfield	12	6	2	4	13	14	20
Keilor Eagles	12	4	7	1	11	6	19
Frankston	12	5	1	6	22	22	16
Elt Dia Valley	12	4	4	4	15	20	16
Pascoe Vale	12	4	2	6	19	19	14
Fitzroy City	12	4	1	7	9	17	13
Seaford Utd	12	3	2	7	17	32	11
Banyule	12	3	1	8	17	29	10
Sunbury Utd	12	1	4	7	9	21	7
Sandringham	12	0	4	8	9	23	1

STATE THREE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	12	11	0	1	52	9	33
Seaford Utd	12	7	2	3	23	12	23
Pascoe Vale	12	7	0	5	28	20	21
Sth Caulfield	12	6	3	3	23	21	21
Keilor Eagles	12	5	4	3	24	16	19
Melb. City	12	6	0	6	23	24	18
Elt. Dia. Valley	12	5	2	5	25	27	17
Sth Dandenong	11	4	3	4	15	23	15
Banyule City	11	4	2	5	18	19	14
Sth Werribee	12	4	2	6	21	29	14
Frankston	12	4	1	7	22	19	13
Sandringham	12	4	3	5	14	15	12
Sunbury Utd	12	4	3	5	14	15	12
Fitzroy City	12	1	1	10	9	51	4

STATE FOUR FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong	12	8	3	1	33	8	27
Sth Springvale	12	8	3	1	22	5	27
Cranbourne	12	7	4	1	25	8	25
Williamstown	11	6	1	4	11	10	19
Stonnington	12	5	3	4	19	16	18
Yarraville	12	5	2	5	12	13	17
Monbulk	11	4	4	3	18	14	16
Corio	12	4	4	4	14	27	16
Sth Wantirna	12	5	0	7	21	21	15
Sun. Heights	12	4	4	4	16	14	13
Langwarrin	12	4	1	7	17	25	13
Nth Coburg Utd	12	2	5	5	15	15	11
Doveton	12	1	5	6	12	29	8
Brighton	12	0	1	11	4	34	1

STATE FOUR RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sth Wantirna	12	8	3	1	27	6	27
Langwarrin	11	8	2	1	33	13	26
Cranbourne	12	8	2	2	28	15	26
Stonnington	12	7	2	3	23	15	23
Williamstown	12	7	0	5	37	27	21
Monbulk	10	5	3	2	18	11	18
Geelong	12	5	2	5	28	21	17
S'shine Heights	12	5	3	4	33	22	15
Brighton	12	4	2	6	27	29	14
Yarraville	12	4	1	7	24	21	13
Sth Springvale	12	4	1	7	20	27	13
Nth Coburg Utd	12	3	0	9	21	55	9
Doveton	11	2	1	8	13	35	7
Corio	12	0	2	10	8	43	2

PROVISIONAL ONE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	12	10	1	1	32	9	31
Lalor	12	7	3	2	32	18	24
Spring. Condors	12	7	2	3	26	15	23
Old Scotch/Hawt	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Nth Sunshine	12	6	2	4	20	22	20
Melton	12	4	5	3	14	10	17
Geel. Rangers	12	5	2	5	19	17	17
Glenroy	12	5	2	5	23	25	17
Ballarat	12	3	4	5	15	18	13
Brandon Park	12	3	3	6	15	23	12
Mitcham Utd	11	2	4	5	12	20	10
Knox Park	11	2	2	7	15	25	8
Heidelberg City	12	2	2	8	16	27	8
Dandenong	12	3	1	8	15	29	7

PROVISIONAL ONE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	12	9	2	1	36	9	29
Mitcham Utd	12	9	1	2	34	8	28
Old Scotch/Hawt	12	7	3	2	25	12	24
Sp'vale Condors	12	7	2	3	35	11	23
Ballarat	12	7	1	4	20	16	22
Glenroy	11	6	0	5	26	21	18
Knox Park	12	6	0	6	22	20	18
Melton	12	5	2	5	15	18	17
Geelong Rangers	12	4	3	5	28	24	15
Heidelberg City	11	3	4	4	21	21	13
Nth Sunshine	12	3	2	7	14	27	11
Lalor	12	2	2	8	18	36	8
Brandon Park	11	2	1	8	18	49	7
Dandenong	11	0	1	10	11	51	-2

PROVISIONAL TWO FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Meadow Park	12	7	3	2	32	11	24
Nth Glenroy	12	7	3	2	38	18	24
Keysborough	12	7	2	3	33	17	23
Mornington	12	7	2	3	20	9	23
Lyndale United	12	6	2	4	23	22	20
Braeside Utd	12	6	1	5	15	18	19
Brunswick City	12	4	4	4	13	17	16
Hampton Pk Utd	12	4	4	4	15	24	16
Berwick City	12	4	3	5	16	22	15
South Yarra	12	4	1	7	15	25	13
Monash Uni.	12	3	2	7	18	22	11
Broadmeadow Utd	12	2	3	7	14	26	9
Hoppers Cr'sing	12	2	5	5	17	23	8
East Nun. Eagles	12	1	5	6	11	26	8

PROVISIONAL TWO RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick City	12	10	1	1	45	17	31
Nth Glenroy	12	9	1	2	29	11	28
Lyndale Utd	12	8	1	3	30	19	23
Sth Yarra	12	7	3	2	29	18	24
Mornington	12	7	0	5	21	21	21
Hopp. Crossing	12	7	1	4	29	16	19
Meadow Park	12	5	3	4	28	21	18
Hampton Park	12	6	0	6	25	23	18
Br'meadows Utd	12	4	3	5	19	23	15
Braeside Utd	12	5	0	7	23	35	15
Berwick City	12	2	3	7	16	29	9
Keysborough	12	2	2	8	16	28	8
East Nun. Eagles	12	1	2	9	16	35	5
Monash Uni.	12	0	2	10	10	44	2

PROVISIONAL THREE NORTH WEST FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Darebin United	8	7	0	1	23	8	21
Whittlesea Utd	8	5	2	1	21	8	17
Nth Reservoir	8	5	2	1	22	13	17
Sydenham Park	8	5	1	2	24	13	16
Latrobe Uni	8	4	3	1	19	12	15
Sunshine Park	8	4	1	3	23	11	13
Northern United	8	2	1	5	21	27	7
Upfield	8	2	0	6	10	26	6
Mill Park	8	1	2	5	9	20	5
Keon Park	8	2	2	4	15	28	5
Diamond Valley	8	2	1	5	12	20	4
West Preston	8	1	1	6	13	26	4

PROVISIONAL THREE NORTH WEST RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Nth Reservoir	8	8	0	0	3	86	24
Sunshine Park	8	6	0	2	24	11	18
Darebin United	8	5	2	1	22	10	17
Sydenham Park	8	5	1	2	20	8	16
Whitlesea Utd	8	5	1	2	21	14	16
Keon Park	8	4	2	2	19	14	11
Upfield	8	2	1	5	17	31	7
Latrobe Uni.	8	2	0	6	13	19	6
West Preston	8	2	0	6	3	19	6
Mill Park	8	1	1	6	14	24	4
Diamond Valley	8	2	1	5	9	21	4
Northern Utd	8	1	1	6	7	30	4

PROVISIONAL THREE SOUTH EAST CENTRAL FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Wantirna	7	6	1	0	31	11	19
Nth Caulfield	8	4	2	2	20	12	14
Ivanhoe Utd	7	4	2	1	17	11	14
Thornbury	8	4	2	2	17	14	14
Wav. Wanderers	8	4	1	3	14	16	13
Oakleigh Utd	8	2	3	3	12	13	9
Flem. Falcons	8	2	3	3	9	10	9
Endeavour Hills	7	2	2	3	12	14	8
Cam Gr.Old Boys	8	2	2	4	14	20	8
East Kew	8	3	1	4	12	17	7
R.M.I.T.	8	1	2	5	7	22	5
Coll'wood City	7	0	3	4	7	12	3

PROVISIONAL THREE SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Wantirna	7	5	1	1	18	4	16
Col'wood City	7	4	1	2	23	20	13
Wav. Wanderers	8	4	1	3	17	14	13
End. Hills	7	4	1	2	14	13	13
Cam. Gr.Old Boys	8	2	5	1	10	12	11
Flem. Falcons	8	3	2	3	13	11	11
R.M.I.T.	8	3	2	3	13	13	11
Ivanhoe United	7	3	0	4	19	23	9
East Kew	8	3	1	4	24	27	7
Nth Caulfield	8	1	4	3	10	14	7
Oakleigh Utd	8	2	1	5	12	24	7
Thornbury	8	1	3	4	10	16	6

PROVISIONAL THREE METRO FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Utd	9	9	0	0	35	7	27
Tem'towe Eagles	9	8	1	0	37	12	22
Yallourn	9	6	1	2	30	17	19
Uni. Melb. Blues	9	5	0	4	22	22	15
Riversdale	9	4	2	3	21	18	14
Mel. Uni. Rangers	9	4	1	4	20	22	13
Rin'wood Rovers	9	3	1	5	11	23	10
Parkmore	9	2	3	4	10	11	9
Elwood City	9	2	2	5	7	12	8
Keilor Utd	9	2	1	6	14	27	7
Ashburton	8	1	1	6	9	18	4
Carrum United	9	1	2	6	9	18	5

PROVISIONAL THREE METRO RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Utd	9	8	1	0	61	6	25
Parkmore	9	6	2	1	31	7	20
Keilor United	9	6	0	3	21	20	18
Uni. Melb. Blues	9	5	2	2	28	15	17
Yallourn	9	5	0	4	31	24	15
Mel. Uni. Rangers	9	4	2	3	26	8	14
Riversdale	9	4	2	3	21	22	14
Ashburton	9	4	1	4	11	20	13
Elwood City	9	2	2	5	14	33	8
Carrum United	9	2	1	6	5	36	7
Tem'tone Eagles	9	1	1	7	7	25	1
Ring. Rovers	9	0	0	9	4	44	0

DIABETES AUSTRALIA VICTORIA
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TACKLE DIABETES
Vic Health Foundation

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WITH RICHARD KREIDER

1995 Under/14 Perth United Junior soccer club

Young stars prepare for Northern Ireland

What do Ryan Giggs of Manchester United, Nick Barmby of Tottenham Hotspur, and Perth United Junior Soccer Club have in common? The answer is come July, they will all have participated in the prestigious Northern Ireland Milk Cup.

Under team manager Bill Annall and coach Brian Adams, a band of 17 Under 14 juniors made up from a handful of local clubs, are soon to make a trip of a lifetime. The Perth team are due to enter the popular Milk Cup in Coleraine, County Londonderry in Northern Ireland. The competition has been running since 1983 for Under 16's, while the U14 event is two years younger.

Classic clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, Newcastle, Blackburn Rovers, Grasshoppers of Zurich, Dynamo of Kiev and Glasgow Rangers have all been regular entrants, since this tournament is seen as one of the gateways to football stardom.

Giggs and Barmby are just two of many that gained recognition in this very popular international youth event.

The touring group then continue on a goodwill expedition of the United Kingdom including having the honour of being part of a curtain-raiser for a new stadium complex in the Welsh town of Merthyr Tydfil. They close the tour on August 13 with a visit to Wembley to watch the 1995 Charity Shield.

The estimated cost of the tour has been put at around $80,000, so in order to raise funds, the group purchased a house and land package in the Perth suburb of Kinross. "The kids themselves have put in a tremendous amount of work on the property," said Perth United spokesman Martin Bain.

"The house is now up for sale, and we expect it to go for around $160,000 which means we should make over $40,000 towards the trip."

UNDER 14 SQUAD

NAME	CLUB
David Annall	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Fraser Arthur	Perth Juniors/North Perth
David Booth	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Matthew Higginson	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Gary Jamieson	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Ian Martin	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Bill Ristevski	Perth Juniors/North Perth
Steve Beesley	Wanneroo Juniors
Grant Dick	Wanneroo Juniors
James Howarth	Wanneroo Juniors
Todd Howarth	Wanneroo Juniors
Paul Noiszewski	Wanneroo Juniors
Steven Pilcher	Wanneroo Juniors
Liam Bruce	Forrestfield United
Steven Meredith	Forrestfield United
Mack Edwards	Gosnells Juniors
Gordon Roebuck	Gosnells Juniors
Coach:	Brian Adams
Team Manager:	Bill Annall

White Eagles swamp Swans

Second Division club Dianella White Eagles produced the biggest upset of the third round in the D'orsogna Cup competition last week, when they downed first division leaders Swan IC 3-2, which included clawing back from a 2-0 deficit at the break.

It was a dream start for their new player-coach Jeff Faulkner who has taken over the helm from Mick Brazil, and the midfield maestro also turned on a man-of-the-match performance on the Swan Italian Club ground.

"It was a great victory by the boys, one we truly deserved," said an elated Dianella President Steve Gatic. "Swan had one and a half chances all day and got two fortunate goals."

The home side were coasting following goals from Peter Murphy and Ken Murray, but a second-half resurgence from the underdogs saw them clinch a quarter-final berth with goals coming from last season's first division top goalscorer Jimmy Provan, Ducin Micura and John Foley.

Sorrento's charge towards a first ever appearance in a D'Orsogna Cup final kicked-off in sensational fashion, with a last-gasp 2-1 win over Stirling Macedonia at Percy Doyle Reserve.

Steve Bourne put Stirling ahead in the 51st minute with a stunning solo effort, and were looking comfortable until two minutes from time, when Gulls tall forward Simon Bowman outjumped Andy Wright to a Joe Sweeney corner, and powered home an unstoppable header. Sorrento then stunned the defending league champions with a Neil Blunt goal in the opening seconds of sudden-death extra-time.

In an all first division clash, Inglewood Falcons downed Bayswater City 2-0 with veteran striker Paul Wormley netting one in each half.

Floreat Athena had an easy 5-0 victory against country club Bunbury United, state forward Michael Roki was again amongst the goals with a hat-trick.

There were six individual goalscorers in Spearwood Dalmatinac's 6-0 triumph over Balga from Division Three. Derek Combe, Gerry Christie, Dean Wallace, Lee Warren, Garry Murray and Kevin Elliott were the match winners.

Kingsway Olympic required a penalty shoot-out in order to win their clash against fellow Division Two side Ashfield, after the game finished 2-2 at the end of extra-time. In the remaining game, Fremantle City were too strong for Balcatta, winning 4-0.

RESULTS – D'ORSOGNA CUP

Sorrento	2-1	Stirling Lions
Bayswater City	0-2	Inglewood Falcons
Balcatta	0-4	Fremantle City
Balga	0-6	Spearwood Dalmatinac
Bunbury United	0-5	Floreat Athena
Swan IC	2-3	Dianella White Eagles
Ashfield	6-7(2-2)	Kingsway Olympic
Stirling Panthers	7-0	Melville Corinthian
RESERVE CUP		
Sorrento	1-0	Stirling Lions
Bayswater	2-1	Inglewood Falcons
Bassendean C	0-3	Fremantle City
University	2-8	Spearwood Dalmatinac
Perth	4-2	Wanneroo
Swan IC	5-4	Morley Windmills
Ashfield	5-4	Kingsway Olympic
UNDER 18 CUP		
Sorrento	4-0	Stirling Lions
Bayswater City	2-0	Inglewood Falcons
Perth	4-3	Fremantle City
Rockingham	1-0	Spearwood Dalmatinac
Gosnells	3-1	Floreat Athena

Spearwood hammer Bayswater

Spearwood Dalmatinac are the new leaders of the P.S.F. First Division following a 6-0 thrashing of Bayswater City at their Dalmatinac Park Ground last Saturday.

A 1-1 draw by former leaders Swan IC against lowly Stirling Panthers carved the way for the Spearwood Club to leapfrog them into the number one slot.

Wing wizard Gerry Christie was inspirational for the title contenders, and was rewarded with a quality hat-trick. The grey hair might be more prevalent, but his silky touches and lethal finishing are still just as potent as in his early years with Scottish clubs Celtic, Ayr United and Airdrie.

For Bayswater keeper Peter Kolikow it was a baptism of fire since having just signed from Perth to replace Rob Scarparolo who has gone on a European holiday.

The opening goal came in the 11th minute when a Christie free-kick eventually found Gary Murray who hit the net from the six-yard line.

Murray made it 2-0 at the break with another easy tap-in, Dean Wallace supplied the bye-line centre.

From the restart, City came out with a more determined attitude and Michael Vassiliou had an opportunity to pull a goal back in the 47th minute but Robbie Zabica denied him with a stylish save at the base of an upright.

The home side then snuffed out any hint of a City comeback with a third goal after an hours play.

Zabica began the move with a quick throw out to Christie waiting on the centre-line. The 37-year-old winger then ran on to the edge of the box and unleased a left-foot missile which bulged the net before Kolikow could blink.

Christie netted his second in the 67th minute, Wayne Thorpe powered home Spearwood's fifth in the 86th and Christie completed the rout a minute later when he punished a half clearance with maximum effect.

At the Osborne Park Ground, Swan dropped from pole position following an ordinary 1-1 result with a Panthers team that are still seeking their first win.

After Swan had controlled most of the first 45 minutes, Stirling stunned the visitors with the opening goal in the 55th through new signing Alan MacKenzie, who found the mark from a goalmouth scramble.

Peter Murphy gave Swan a share of the points with his ninth goal of the season, two minutes from time, a quality header provided by Ori Colli. Swan hit the net a minute later through Terry Worsfold, but Murphy was ruled to have fouled Perruzza on his follow-through after centreing the ball.

Perth recorded a no-nonsense 4-0 victory over a disappointing Inglewood Falcons side at Dorrien Gardens. After a dull first-half Scott Miller opened his account in the 51st minute, then lined up Frankbate for a second 15 minutes later.

John Costa increased Perth's advantage in the 79th minute then Inglewood stopper Tony Hall directed a Ray Marinovic Cross past his own keeper six minutes from the end.

Sorrento kept in touch with the Frontrunners following a 4-0 win over bottom team Fremantle City at Percy Doyle Reserve. Niel Blunt, Andrew Chapman, Simon Bowman and Gary Lee were the Gulls goalscorers.

In the Sunday clash at the Velodrome, Stirling Macedonia moved into second spot after a 2-1 triumph against Floreat Athena.. Steve Bourne netted both goals for the Lions in the 50th and 62nd minutes both starting from long throw-ins by Scott Clissold and Scott Devine respectively.

Athena's only reply came from a Slobodan Despotovski penalty five minutes from time.

DIVISION ONE

Spearwood	7	4	2	1	24	10	14
Stirling Mac	6	4	1	1	22	9	13
Swan IC	6	4	1	1	19	9	13
Sorrento	6	3	2	1	20	10	11
Perth	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Inglewood	5	3	1	1	12	16	10
Bayswater	7	2	2	3	10	24	8
Floreat	7	2	1	4	13	18	7
Panthers	7	0	3	4	12	18	3
Fremantle	7	0	0	7	5	28	0

SNICKERS NSW SHIELD

GIRLS 15YRS AND UNDER

***ROUND 2:** Kingsgrove 3 bt Kogarah 1, Whalan 3 bt Cranebrook 1, Malvina 2 bt Concord 1, St Josephs 2 bt The Forest 0, Henry Kendall 6 bt Gorokan 0, Mater Dei 1 bt Kincumber 0, Hillston 2/3 bt Griffith 2/0, Finley 1 bt Temora 0.*

***ROUND 3:** Gymea 2 bt St Pats Sutherland 0, Hawkesbury 1 bt Colo 0, Pennant Hills 0/5 bt Carlingford 0/3, Westfields 2 bt Moorebank 1, Camden 5 bt Kanahooka 0, Bomaderry 4 bt Holy Spirit 0, Cessnock 4 bt All Saints 2, Swansea 6 bt Morisset 0, Glendale 2/5 bt Newcastle 2/3, Forster 5 bt Wingham 0, Tamworth 6 bt Armidale 0, Hillston 4 bt Finley 0.*

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP

ROUND 3: James Ruse 4 bt Muirfield 3, Blacktown 2 bt Grantham 0, Baulkham Hills 1 bt Greystanes 0, Sydney Tech 3 bt Menai 0, Dulwich 1 bt Endeavour 0, Canterbury 1 bt Kingsgrove Nth 1 (6-5 on penalties), Kogarah 2 bt Kingsgrove 1, Hunters Hill 2 bt Concord 1, Westfields 1 bt Bossley Park 0.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD

ROUND 2: Blacktown 2 bt Evans 1, James Ruse 6 bt Northmead 0, Jannali 6 bt St George 0, Kirrawee 5 bt J J Cahill 0, Kingsgrove North 2 bt Blakehurst 0, Sydney Girls 3 bt Beverly Hills 2, Port Hacking 4 bt Strathfield 0, Cronulla 4 bt Sylvania 2, Fort Street 3 bt Carlingford 1, Barrenjoey 1 bt The Forest 0, Henry Hendall 3 bt Umina 0, Lisarow 2 bt Gorokan 1, Riverside 5 bt Macarthur 1, Swansea 10 bt Gateshead 0, Chatham 6 bt Taree 0, Forster 1 bt Newcastle 0, West Wallsend 4 bt Maitland 0, Francis Greenway 5 bt Warners Bay 1, Lambton 2 bt Waratah 0, Cessnock 2 bt Muswellbrook 1, Westfields 8 bt Casula 0.

QUEENSLAND XXXX SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 13

SPLIT ROUND

Wynnum	4	Nth Brisbane	0
Pine Rivers	2	Eastern Subs	2

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brisbane City	12	10	1	1	35	14	31
Rochedale Rovers	12	9	2	1	29	8	29
Taringa Rovers	12	8	1	3	23	13	25
North Star	12	7	2	3	24	23	23
Brisbane Lions	12	5	6	1	22	12	21
Wynnum District	13	7	0	6	22	19	21
Coalstars	12	5	2	5	18	16	17
Eastern Suburbs	13	3	2	8	13	30	11
Grange Thistle	12	3	1	8	18	26	10
Pine Rivers United	13	1	6	6	13	22	9
North Brisbane	13	1	3	9	12	24	6
Willowburn	12	1	2	9	15	37	5

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Beenleigh	13	10	2	1	45	17	32
Nerang	12	8	1	3	24	13	25
Ipswich St Helens	13	7	2	4	31	21	23
Rocklea United	12	7	1	4	20	11	22
Logan City Kings	12	7	1	4	27	21	22
Acacia Ridge	13	6	3	4	23	21	21
St Albans	13	6	0	7	24	21	18
Olympic United	12	5	2	5	12	17	17
Mount Gravatt	13	4	2	7	18	23	14
Inala City United	13	3	2	8	17	33	11
Souths United	13	3	1	9	15	31	10
Uni of Qld	13	1	1	11	12	39	4

ROUND 13 SCORES

*Olympic United	0	Nerang	0
South United	0	Ipswich St Helens	4
Uni of Qld	0	Beenleigh	5
Acacia Ridge	0	St Albans	5
*Rocklea United	0	Logan City Kings	0
Inala City United	1	Mount Gravatt	1

*Being played Monday 12.6.95

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Capalaba	13	11	2	0	37	11	35
Albany Creek	13	9	1	3	33	11	28
Slacks Creek	13	7	3	3	25	11	24
The Gap	13	7	2	4	26	15	23
Mitchelton	12	6	1	5	20	18	19
Goodna & Districts	13	6	1	6	20	21	19
Annerley Rec	13	6	1	6	19	22	19
Redlands United	13	5	2	6	16	21	17
Newmarket	13	4	3	6	18	21	15
Clairvaux	13	3	1	9	14	31	10
Latrobe Ath	13	1	4	8	18	32	7
North Pine United	12	1	1	10	5	37	4

ROUND 13 SCORES

Slacks Creek	1	Annerley Rec	2
Goodna & Districts	3	Clairvaux	1
Newmarket	2	Redlands United	4
*North Pine United	0	Mitchelton	0
Albany Creek	2	The Gap	0
Latrobe Athletic	1	Capalaba	7

*Being played Monday 12.6.95

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Western Suburbs	13	10	2	1	28	10	32
Southside Eagles	13	9	1	3	26	9	28
Darra United	12	9	0	3	30	8	27
Moggill United	13	8	2	3	36	14	26
Redcliffe City	13	8	1	4	33	20	25
Samford	13	6	1	6	25	27	19
Brothers United	13	4	4	5	25	24	16
South Star	13	4	3	6	18	26	15
Loganholme	13	3	2	8	18	27	11
Ipswich City	12	3	2	7	14	29	11
Pine Hills	13	0	5	8	14	32	5
Oxley United	13	1	1	11	10	51	4

ROUND 13 SCORES

*Darra United	0	Ipswich City	0
Moggill United	7	Oxley United	2
Brothers United	3	Pine Hills	3
Samford	3	Redcliffe City	6
Western Suburbs	3	South Star	0
Southside Eagles	0	Loganholme	2

*Being played Monday 12.6.95

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE FIRST GRADE

Wallsend Red Devils	2	Weston Workers Bears	2
West Wallsend Bluebells	0	Edgeworth Eagles	1
Highfields	3	Cessnock Hornets	0
Lake Macquarie Roosters	1	Hamilton Warriors	3
Deferred fixture			
Broadmeadow Magic	1	Lake Macquarie Roosters	0

TOOHEYS SECOND DIVISION — 1ST GRADE

Singleton Strikers	1	South Cardiff Gunners	2
Belmont Tigers	2	Lambton Jaffas	2
Stockton Sharks	1	Toronto-Awaba Stags	2
Deferred fixture			
Stockton Sharks	0	Budgewoi Budgies	1

RESERVE GRADE RESULTS

Wallsend Red Devils	0	Weston Workers Bears	1
West Wallsend Bluebells	2	Edgeworth Eagles	2
Highfields	2	Cessnock Hornets	0
Lake Macquarie Roosters	2	Hamilton Warriors	0
Deferred fixture			
Broadmeadow Magic	2	Lake Macquarie Roosters	1

UNDER 18'S

Wallsend Red Devils	1	Weston Workers Bears	3
West Wallsend Bluebells	0	Edgeworth Eagles	1
Highfields	1	Cessnock Hornets	0
Lake Macquarie Roosters	1	Hamilton Warriors	0
Deferred fixture			
Broadmedow Magic	4	Lake Macquarie Roosters	0

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Highfields	7	6	1	0	28	9	22
Weston Workers Bears	7	6	0	1	24	3	19
Edgeworth Eagles	8	4	3	1	15	9	18
West Wallsend Bluebells	8	4	1	3	14	14	13
Lake Macqauarie Roosters	7	3	1	3	12	13	10
Wallsend Red Devils	7	3	1	3	8	13	11
Hamilton Warriors	7	2	3	2	13	13	12
Cessnock Hornets	8	2	1	5	6	13	7
Broadmeadow Magic	7	1	1	5	4	13	7
Maitland Magpies	8	0	0	8	5	29	0

RESERVE GRADE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Highfields	7	6	1	0	24	4	21
Edgeworth Eagles	8	5	2	1	17	9	18
Cessnock Hornets	8	5	2	1	17	10	17
Wallsend Red Devils	7	4	1	2	15	10	13
West Workers Bears	7	4	0	3	14	8	15
West Wallsend Bluebells	8	3	1	4	21	13	11
Hamilton Warriors	7	2	1	4	10	10	7
Lake Macquarie Roosters	7	1	2	4	3	11	7
Broadmeadow Magic	7	1	0	6	11	21	6
Maitland Magpies	8	1	0	7	4	40	3

UNDER 18'S TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Highfields	7	5	2	0	27	9	20
Wallsend Red Devils	7	5	1	1	15	6	16
West Wallsend Bluebells	8	5	0	3	12	10	15
Weston Workers Bears	7	4	2	1	13	4	17
Edgeworth Eagles	8	3	2	3	15	7	14
Hamilton Warriors	7	3	2	2	15	8	11
Broadmeadow Magic	7	3	2	2	13	12	14
Lake Macquarie Roosters	7	1	1	5	6	17	7
Maitland Magpies	8	1	1	6	3	23	4
Cessnock Hornets	8	0	1	7	3	26	1

Test Your Knowledge

ANSWERS

(1) The Animal
(2) Berti Vogts
(3) Liechenstein
(4) South Melbourne
(5) Real Madrid
(6) Carlos Barreira
(7) Italy
(8) Macao & Chad
(9) Canberra Arrows
(10) Majed Mahmamed

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FIRST DIVISION

Sorrento	4	Fremantle City	0
Stirling Panthers	1	Swan IC	1
Perth	4	Inglewood Falcons	0
Spearwood Dal	6	Bayswater City	0

SECOND DIVISION

Rockingham City	1	Balcatta	1
Bassendean Cale	4	Stirling Vardar	2
Morley Windmills	1	Dianella WE	5
Melville Corinthian	1	Western Knights	2
Ashfield	3	Kingsway Olympic	7
Southside Utd	2	Cockburn Utd	0

THIRD DIVISION

Perth City	1	University	3
Wanneroo British	2	Queens Park	1
Stirling V Reds	0	Joondalup City	4
Balga	6	Bunbury Utd	5
Armadale Park	0	Western Yugal	1
Nth Lake Espanol	1	Geraldton	2

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Spearwood Dal	7	4	2	1	24	10	14
Swan IC	6	4	1	1	19	9	13
Stirling City	6	3	2	1	21	9	11
Sorrento SC	6	3	2	1	20	10	11
Perth SC	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Inglewood	6	3	1	2	12	16	10
Bayswater City	7	2	2	3	10	24	8
Floreat Athena	6	2	1	3	12	16	7
Panthers	6	0	2	4	11	17	2
Fremantle City	7	0	0	7	5	29	0

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Knights	7	7	0	0	26	3	21
Kingsway Oly	7	5	2	1	26	7	17
Bassendean C	8	5	0	3	13	15	15
Dianella WE	7	4	1	2	16	6	13
Melville Corint	7	3	1	3	4	4	10
Ashfield	8	2	3	3	15	16	9
Balcatta	8	2	3	3	10	24	9
Cockburn Utd	8	2	2	4	12	17	8
Rockingham City	8	1	5	2	10	15	8
Southside United	8	1	4	3	11	14	7
Morley Windmills	8	1	3	4	13	19	6
Stirling Vardar	8	1	2	5	7	17	5

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
White City Wood	12	6	2	4	24	17	20
Adelaide Blue Eagle	12	6	2	4	25	20	20
Salisbury United	12	5	3	4	14	13	18
Pt Adelaide Lion	12	4	6	2	19	16	18
Adelaide Raiders	12	5	2	5	24	21	17
Croydon	12	4	4	4	20	19	16
Campbelltown City	12	4	2	6	18	21	14
Modbury	12	1	4	7	15	31	7

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Para Hills	11	9	0	2	20	7	27
West Torrens	11	6	3	2	25	12	21
Elizabeth City	11	5	4	2	17	16	19
West Adelaide	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Adelaide City	11	5	2	4	19	15	17
Plympton	11	4	3	4	16	14	15
Olympians	11	4	2	5	16	19	14
Cumberland Utd	11	3	4	4	16	18	13
Enfield City	11	3	3	5	16	21	12
Noarlunga Utd	11	2	1	8	17	29	7
Oxley United	12	1	1	10	8	44	4
Seaford	10	0	3	7	8	23	3

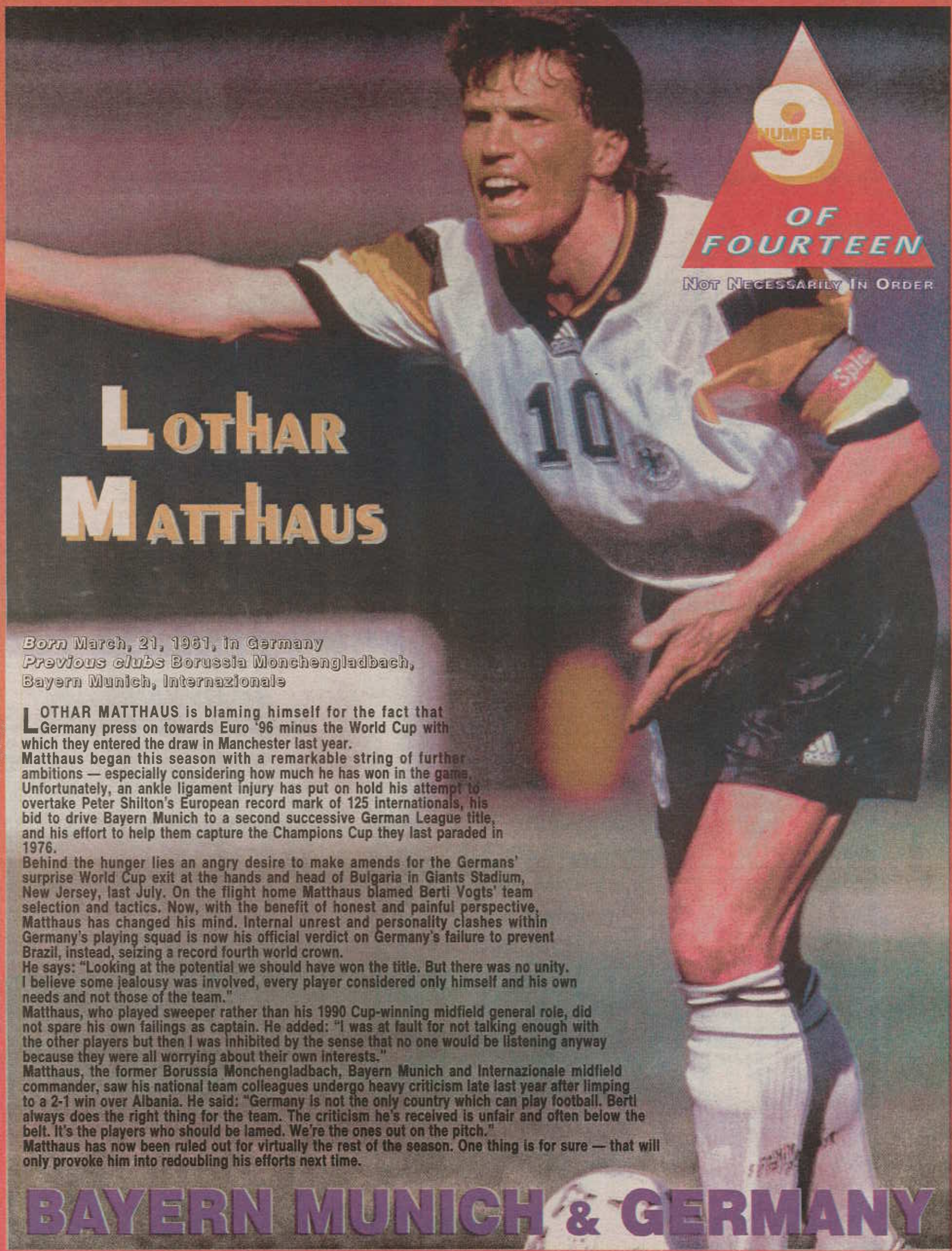
TASMANIA

NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Devonport	7	6	0	1	31	7	18
Burnie	7	5	1	1	19	3	16
Launceston	7	5	0	2	43	9	15
Ulverstone	7	4	2	1	26	8	14
L'ton Knights	7	3	0	4	9	17	9
Georgetown	7	2	1	4	14	22	7
St Leonards	8	2	1	5	12	32	7
Western Subs	7	1	3	3	13	19	6
Somerset	7	0	0	7	3	53	0

The World's 14 Best Players

(According to the football Bible *World Soccer*)



Born March, 21, 1961, in Germany
Previous clubs Borussia Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich, Internazionale

LOTHAR MATTHAUS is blaming himself for the fact that Germany press on towards Euro '96 minus the World Cup with which they entered the draw in Manchester last year.

Matthaus began this season with a remarkable string of further ambitions — especially considering how much he has won in the game. Unfortunately, an ankle ligament injury has put on hold his attempt to overtake Peter Shilton's European record mark of 125 internationals, his bid to drive Bayern Munich to a second successive German League title, and his effort to help them capture the Champions Cup they last paraded in 1976.

Behind the hunger lies an angry desire to make amends for the Germans' surprise World Cup exit at the hands and head of Bulgaria in Giants Stadium, New Jersey, last July. On the flight home Matthaus blamed Berti Vogts' team selection and tactics. Now, with the benefit of honest and painful perspective, Matthaus has changed his mind. Internal unrest and personality clashes within Germany's playing squad is now his official verdict on Germany's failure to prevent Brazil, instead, seizing a record fourth world crown.

He says: "Looking at the potential we should have won the title. But there was no unity. I believe some jealousy was involved, every player considered only himself and his own needs and not those of the team."

Matthaus, who played sweeper rather than his 1990 Cup-winning midfield general role, did not spare his own failings as captain. He added: "I was at fault for not talking enough with the other players but then I was inhibited by the sense that no one would be listening anyway because they were all worrying about their own interests."

Matthaus, the former Borussia Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich and Internazionale midfield commander, saw his national team colleagues undergo heavy criticism late last year after limping to a 2-1 win over Albania. He said: "Germany is not the only country which can play football. Berti always does the right thing for the team. The criticism he's received is unfair and often below the belt. It's the players who should be lamed. We're the ones out on the pitch."

Matthaus has now been ruled out for virtually the rest of the season. One thing is for sure — that will only provoke him into redoubling his efforts next time.

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SWEDEN '95 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Matildas scare Champs

BY JANENE MAR

Australia will head home, its World Cup campaign now ended after the group matches, beaten but far from disgraced in its baptism of fire against three of the world's best teams in women's soccer.

The Matildas demonstrated true Aussie spirit and determination aplenty, but against giants Denmark, China and USA, this proved simply not enough.

Yet last Saturday in Helsingborg, the Aussies gave the defending World Champions one of their biggest frights in World Cup football, holing the classy athletes and actually taking the lead before conceding four late goals to go down 4-1.

The Australians were determined to do well against the Americans and displayed good urgency in their play. The US had clear dominance of the match throughout but found it hard to score against the dogged and spirited defence.

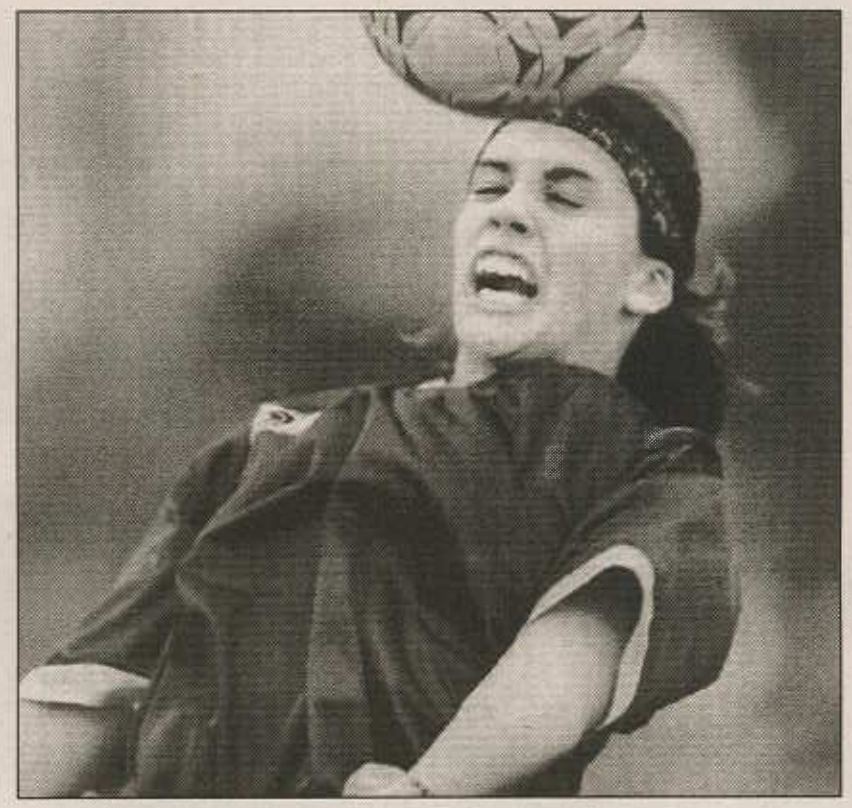
The score remained at 0-0 going into half-time, USA having hit the woodwork twice and a goal disallowed before the scoreboard was called into action.

Yet that opening goal was put away not by champions USA but by the raw Aussie side. In the 54th minute, completely against the run of play and their first attacking move for the half, wiry Angela Iannotta made a surging run up field.

The ball was laid off to Sunni Hughes on the left who whipped a first-time cross into the centre of the box for the unmarked Lisa Casagrande to plant a powerful header past defenceless keeper Saskia Webber. The strike sent the small band of Aussie supporters into a frenzy.

In desperation, US coach Tony DiCicco brought on 1991 champ Julie Foudy to bolster his attack after having already made a similar substitution at half-time.

USA from then on looked more composed, Foudy on hand to finally score the equaliser with a bullet-like long-range header beating everyone from the corner-kick.



Lisa Casagrande: Attracted interest from U.S. College Scouts.

Nine minutes later, USA took the lead when Joy Fawcett tapped in an easy goal after keeper Tracey Wheeler was unable to hold a Kristine Lilly drive.

At the 90 minute mark, the score stood at 2-1, but time was not up with the two time-outs having been taken. Cruelly, the Aussies conceded two further goals in stoppage time.

Australia unfortunately fell victim to another dubious refereeing decision when a spot-kick was awarded against Iannotta in the 93rd minute. Iannotta had seemingly made a clean tackle to clear the ball from the feet of Mia Hamm, but Carla Overbeck placed her kick well to take the lead to two.

After 97 minutes Debbie Keller added another with a good shot inside the far post.

Australia's World Cup campaign was over after another gutsy effort, keeper Tracey Wheeler again starring for the Matildas.

DiCicco had warned his players that Australia would be no walk-over. "Events proved me right," he said, unable to call on star Michelle Akers, still unavailable through injury.

"It took an incredible display of character to get us home."

Aussie coach Tom Sermanni said his team had been under no illusions as to the task it faced against the reigning champions. "We knew we were going to be under pressure and we coped with it very well," he said. "Taking the lead was a great boost for us but it was fairly inevitable the US would get the rewards for its dominance."

– AUSTRALIA –
Tracey Wheeler
Anissa Tann-Darby
Sarah Cooper
Sonia Gegenhuber
Jane Oakley /
(Sasha Wainwright 76)
Angela Iannotta
Alison Forman
Julie Murray
Kim Lembryk (Kaylene Janssen 83)
Sunni Hughes
Lisa Casagrande /
(Lizzy Claydon 66)

Australia in shaky start against Danes

Australia's dreams of qualifying for the Atlanta Olympic games were all but shattered following a disappointing 5-0 loss to Denmark in their World Cup debut match in Vasteras last Tuesday.

After being dealt the cruel challenge of taking on Denmark, China and USA at last February's World Cup draw, the Aussies always knew a win over the Danes was a must if they were to achieve that Atlanta goal.

It was perhaps a nervous start — Australia's first ever representation at such a prestigious event, with every match a crucial contest. For the opening 10 minutes, neither side looked settled but after taking the lead the Danes stepped up a couple of gears to dominate play across the park. Australia however seemed slow, hesitant in possession and suspect in marking the fluid Danish attack.

In the 11th minute, striker Gitte Krogh set Denmark on their way with a good strike to take the lead. Two controversial refereeing decisions were then to be the bane of the Australian camp. The first came after 25 minutes when Denmark-based Aussie Alison Forman was booked by Norwegian referee Bente Skogvang after what appeared to be an innocent enough tackle on Anne Nielsen. From the resultant free-kick, Nielsen hit a magnificent ball into the top of goal to take the advantage to two.

Just five minutes later, Skogvang was again the centre of attention, this time producing a straight red to dismiss stopper Sonia Gegenhuber following a clash with Krogh. The decision incensed the Australians, convinced it was more a 50-50 tussle, both in pursuit of the loose ball. Down a player, the Matildas' chances of a comeback were effectively nil.

Captain Helle Jensen took advantage of the situation, putting away a clever goal from an acute angle on the right to take a three goal lead into the break over the hapless Australians.

Denmark continued to control the match in the second period, Krogh hitting her second with a simple chip over the advancing keeper after just four minutes.

The Matildas were able to keep the tally to four until with three minutes remaining, a high swirling far post cross was dropped by goalie Tracey Wheeler for Christiana Hansen to tap into the net and end the game with a 5-0 scoreline.

Despite this last goal, Wheeler under constant attack, pulled off some magnificent saves, the Matildas' savour on many an occasion. Also impressive was Michelle Watson, transferring her recent good form onto the world stage, and remaining positive in attack throughout the match.

Watson looked good in possession and was unlucky not to get herself on the scoresheet with several confident long-range strikes on target. She has consequently attracted the interest of US college scouts.

It was the standard of refereeing however which stuck foremost in the Aussies' minds immediately after the match. National Coach Tom Sermanni was scathing in his condemnation of Skogvang's decisions. "They altered the course of the game," he said. "The free-kick against Alison Foreman was a clean, fair and just challenge and the Gegenhuber send-off was little short of farcical?"

Commenting on the fact there are more female referees than males at this World Cup, he added. "It makes me wonder whether we have traded quality for equality." Apart from the dismissal, there were four players booked — three of them Australians, and Sermanni said perhaps one was justified.

"But having said that, I can take nothing away from the Danes. They were clearly the better team on the day."

"I have no complaints about the way we played, considering the standard of our opponents. With the pressure we were under, we could easily have lost our composure and gone down by eight or nine."

Captain Julie Murray said it would be up to her and other experienced players to pull the side together in time for the next meeting with China. "Our great strength is our team spirit," she said. "Because of that I have no fear we can put this result behind us and make a fresh start against the Chinese."

AUSTRALIA: Tracey Wheeler, Anissa Tann-Darby, Sarah Cooper, Sonia Gegenhuber (sent off 30), Jane Oakley, Michelle Watson, Alison Forman, Cheryl Salisbury (Kim Lembryk 56), Julie Murray, Lisa Casagrande (Lizzy Claydon 79), Sunni Hughes (Angela Iannotta 56).

Matildas in exciting tussle against China

Having to pick themselves up from a 5-0 drubbing just two days earlier, Australia did exceptionally well to put in a much improved performance against China showing great fight and spirit over their opponents who are considered serious contenders for the World Cup crown.

The match played in Vasteras last Thursday was level at half-time but ended with a 4-2 win to the more experienced Asians.

China went into attack from the first whistle, displaying great fluency, skill and understanding in support play.

Their possessional advantage was finally converted onto the scoresheet in the 23rd minute when defender Yang Zhou found the ball at her feet from a corner cross. Unmarked in front of goal, she had a simple shot into the net.

But just one minute later, China were shocked to find the scores again level. Zhou, now last defender, made a poor volleyed clearance. The ball hit Aussie striker Sunni Hughes, deflecting square and straight into the path of the advancing Angela Iannotta who drove the ball in at the near post for Australia's first ever World Cup goal.

A minute before half-time, the Aussies had a perfect opportunity to go into the break with the lead when a long ball from midfield found Iannotta. The live-wire striker rounded one defender but was unable to force her way past the desperate dive of keeper Honglian Zhorig.

China remained in attacking mood in the second period, their constant pressure producing their second goal after 54 minutes through a Guihong Shi strike. Australia remained positive however and were unlucky not to equalise.

Tom Sermanni

Shi was again on hand to convert a corner-kick to take the score to 3-1 after 76 minutes and what appeared a comfortable lead for the Asian giants.

But the gutsy Australians again upset China's plans, hitting back in the 87th minute and setting up a tense final few minutes for their highly fancied opponents. Substitute Lizzy Claydon forced her way past two defenders on the right wing before unleashing a low cross into the box which keeper Zhong was unable to hold. Hughes pounced onto the loose ball for the easiest of tap-ins.

The goal sparked the Matildas into further attack but despite desperate attempts, an equaliser was not forthcoming.

With an extended Aussie backline, it was China who scored the final goal at the death, the ball falling to Ailing Liu after goalie Tracey Wheeler had made a superb save to tip a certain goal onto the crossbar.

It was not the actual result that coach Tom Sermanni was interested in discussing after the game. Instead he was full of praise for the fighting qualities of the Aussies who he said "can play no better than they did tonight."

Reminding journalists that in the only other game against China played seven years ago, when Australia lost 7-0, he said women's soccer has come a long way.

"We always knew we would be up against it in the World Cup and especially in this group," said Sermanni. "To take the game to the Chinese in the way we did was nothing short of outstanding."

For lengthy periods of the match, Aussie grit and determination matched the class of China. "In the end we were beaten by a better team which is very quick and technically superb, but the important thing is that we were not outclassed. It will take a couple of years to reach their level, but it is attainable."

From a pleasing all-round Australian effort, Iannotta, Wheeler and Jane Oakley each had impressive performances.

Australia's display was marred by yellow cards to both Cheryl Salisbury and Michelle Watson, their second for the tournament, ruling them out for the clash against USA.

AUSTRALIA: Tracey Wheeler, Anissa Tann-Darby, Sarah Cooper, Cheryl Salisbury (Lizzy Claydon 76), Jane Oakley, Michelle Watson, Alison Forman, Kim Lembryk (Lisa Casagrande 61), Julie Murray (Denie Pentecost 80), Angela Iannotta, Sunni Hughes.

SWEDEN '95 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

WORLD CUP - A learning experience

BY JANENE MAR

Australia's World Cup Team set off for Sweden with the firm aim of finishing in the top eight, thereby qualifying for the Atlanta Olympic Games. Naturally they approached the mammoth task with a positive belief that it could be achieved - there is no other way to enter such a challenge.

But it was always going to be a miraculous effort for the dream to ever become a reality. Drawn in the "Group of Death" against Denmark, China and USA was to prove the toughest of hurdles. Despite a hectic tour schedule over the last 10 months, the Aussies' preparation was relatively limited, as previous to this the squad had been in mothballs for three years, devoid of any international competition.

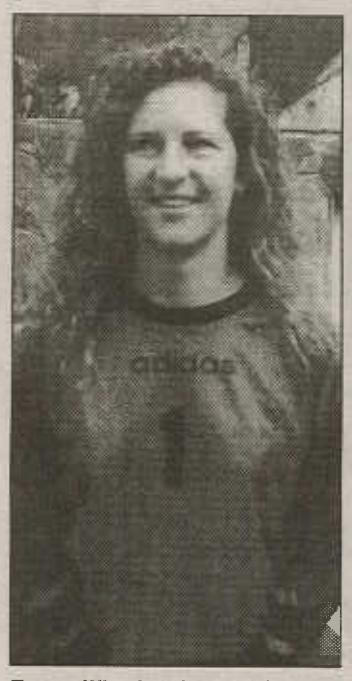
Speaking from Sweden just hours after their final match, National Coach Tom Sermanni was philosophical in his reflections of the whole World Cup experience.

"Overall it was obviously a learning experience for the players", he said. "It was an opportunity for them to play against three of the best four teams in the world which was unfortunate in terms of gaining points. It has given us an idea of where we stand in relation to top international football."

Sermanni went on to relate the biggest disappointment he faced during the championship. "Anything in sport comes down to some tight decisions. Two decisions against us early in the Denmark match made life very difficult. It's the realisation afterwards - had we had a more favourable start, what might have happened.

PLACINGS

	W	D	L	F	A	G/D	Pt
Germany	2	-	1	9	4	5	6
Sweden	2	-	1	5	3	2	6
Japan	1	-	2	2	4	2	3
Brazil	1	-	2	3	8	5	3
Norway	3	-	-	17	0	17	9
England	2	-	1	6	6	-	6
Canada	-	1	2	5	13	8	1
Nigeria	-	1	2	5	14	9	1
USA	2	1	-	9	4	5	7
China	2	1	-	10	6	4	7
Denmark	1	-	2	6	5	1	3
Australia	0	-	3	3	13	10	0



Tracey Wheeler: Australia's best.

Sermanni reported that the players are obviously disappointed but also realistic. "They feel they have given what they can - they have been beaten by better teams at this moment.

"But I must say the effort and commitment from the players has been outstanding. And they can come away satisfied with the fact."

Named by Sermanni as the most impressive at the World Cup were goalkeeper Tracey Wheeler and attacking midfielder Michelle Watson. Put under constant pressure over each of the three matches, Wheeler pulled off some magnificent saves and led from the back.

"Tracey was outstanding in goals - it's the best I've seen her play," said Sermanni.

Watson produced a skilful and confident performance, always remaining positive in attack. It was unfortunate Watson missed the USA contest through suspension.

Watson and Lisa Casagrande have caught the eye of US College Scouts and will come home to consider their options.

Sermanni says he plans to continue in his role as National Coach. "I have given myself to this job and as long as I am wanted I will carry on." he said. With Atlanta now out of the picture, plans to prepare for the 1999 World Cup and Sydney 2000 will be put into action now. "The ITC programs will play a critical part. We must continue to develop the game and encourage the youngsters to play. In a sense, we have the time to set real standards, and assess what is needed to improve at the elite level.

Needless to say, a vital ingredient in our future development is regular tope-class international competition. The team will in fact not have a chance to rest yet after returning from Sweden, jetting off to USA next month to honour an invitation extended before the World Cup.

It's an honour that we have been invited to take part in this four nation tournament , and it will be a good idea to keep up our games tally," said Sermanni. Australia will take on USA, Norway and Chinese Taipei.

The World Cup may not have worked out how we all had hoped, but it should prove a valuable first chapter in Australia's coming of age on the world football scene.

FOR THE RECORD

GROUP A

In Helsingborg 5 June
Sweden 0 Brazil 1 (half-time 0-1)
Scorer - Roseli de Belo (37th)
Attendance 14500
In Karlstad 5 June
Germany 1 Japan 0 (half-time 1-0)
Scorer - Silvia Neid (23rd)
Attendance 3800
In Helsingborg 7 June
Sweden 3 Germany 2 (half-time 0-2)
Sweden - Malin Andersson 71st pen, 90th Pia Sundhage 87th
Germany - Bettina Wiegmann 9th pen, Ursula John 45th
In Karlstad 7 June
Japan 2 - Brazil 1 (halftime 2-1)
Japan - Akemi Loda 14, 45
Brazil - Tretinha 7
In Vasteras 9 June
Sweden 2 Japan 0
Attendance 7800
In Karlstad 9 June
Germany 6 Brazil 1

GROUP B

In Karlstad 6 June
Norway 8 Nigeria 0 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers - Kristin Sandberg 30, 43, 83
Hege Riise 49
An Kristin Aarones 60, 90
Linda Medalen 67
Tina Svensson 67 pen
In Helsingburg 6 June
England 3 Canada 2 (halftime 0-0)
England - Gillian Coultard 56 pen, 89, Anne Marie Stacey 81 pen
Canada - Helen Stoumbos 90, Geraldine Donelly 92
In Karlstad 8 June
Norway 2 England 0 (halftime 2-0)
Tone Haugen 7, Hege Riise 37
Attendance 5520
In Helsingborg 8 June
Canada 3 Nigeria 3 (2-1)
Canada - Silvana Burtini 13, 56
Geraldine Donnelly 23
Nigeria - Rita Nwadike 26, Patience Avre 60, Adaku Okoroqfor 77
Attendance 322
In Gavle 10 June
Norway 7 Canada 0 (halftime 3-0)
Ann Kristin Aaroenes 4, 22, 90
Hege Riise 12
Marianne Pettersen 72, 89
Randi Leinan 83
England 3 Nigeria 2
England - Karen Farley 10, 39
Karen Walker 27
Nigeria - Adaku Okorofar 13
Rita Nwadike 74

GROUP C

In Gavle 6 June
USA 3 China 3 (2-1)
USA - Tisha Venturi 23, Tiffeny Milbrett 34, Mia Hamm 50
China - Wang Liping 39, Wei Haiying 74, Sun Wen 79
In Vasteras 6 June
Denmark 5 Australia 0 (3-0)
Gitte Krogh 11, 49
Anne Nielsen 25
Helle Jensen 37
Christiana Hansen 87
In Gavle
USA 2 Denmark 2 (1-0)
Kristine Lilly 8, Tiffeny Milbrett 49
Att 2704
In Vasteras
China 4 Australia 2 (1-1)
China - Yang Zhou 23, Guihong Shi 54, 76, Ailing Liu 90
Australia Angela Iannotta 24, Sunni Hughes 87
Att 1602
In Helsingborg 10 June
USA 4 Australia 1 (0-0)
USA - Julie Foudy 63, Joy Fawcett 72, Carla Overbeck 93pen, Debbie Keller 97
Australia Lisa Casagrande 54
In Vasteras 10 June
China 3 Denmark 1 (1-1)
China Guihong Shi 24, Wan Sun 77, Haiyang Wei 90
Denmark Christina Bonde 45

WORLD CUP QUARTER FINALS

All quarter finals will be held Tuesday 13 June.

Match 19	Vasteras	Germany	-v-	England
20	Helsingborg	Sweden	-v-	China
21	Gavle	Japan	-v-	USA
22	Karlstand	Norway	-v-	Denmark

For the semi-finals the winner of match 19 will play the winner of 20 with the winner of 21 and 22 drawn together.

WORLD CUP TV GUIDE SBS-TV

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 5.05 - 6.00PM
One Quarter-Final highlights

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 5.05 - 6.00PM
One Semi-Final highlights

MONDAY 19 JUNE 5.00 - 6.00PM
The Final highlights

China hold defending Champs

World Cup defending champion the United States lost the world's top female soccer player Michelle Akers and could only draw with China in its opening match of the tournament.

The Americans took a 3-1 lead after Akers left with a mild concussion with just six minutes gone before China rallied with two late goals to draw 3-3.

Akers, who scored both goals in a 2-1 victory over Norway in the 1991 World Cup final, was injured when she helped out in defence, bumping into a Chinese player when trying to head clear in the penalty area after a Chinese corner.

"We're keeping an eye on her," US head coach Tony DiCicco said."I have no idea when she'll be able to play."

Denmark blanked Australia 5-0 in Vasteras in the other Group C game. In Group B action, Norway routed Nigeria 8-0 in Karlstad and England edged Canada 3-2 in Helsingborg.

Kristin Sandberg scored the first hat-trick in the championships for Norway while Gitte Krogh paced the Danes with two goals.

England led 3-0 before Canada hit back with two goals in the last two minutes by Helen Stoumbos and Geraldine Donnelly.

SWEDES MAKE REMARKABLE COMEBACK

Sweden scored three straight goals in the last 19 minutes to edge European champion Germany 3-2 and Japan beat Brazil 2-1 in the women's World Cup tournament.

It left all four teams with identical 1-0-1 (won-tied-lost) records and three points in Group A before the final round-robin games.

Midfielder Malin Andersson capped one of the greatest comebacks in Swedish women's soccer history, netting her second goal of the evening in the last minute for the game-winner in Helsingborg, southern Sweden.

"We had to win tonight to stay alive in the championship," said Andersson, a World Cup rookie who made her national team debut a year ago. "We were all ashamed after losing to Brazil in the opener."

Andersson started the comeback in the 71st minute, scoring with a penalty. Veteran sweeper Pia Sundhage, making a record 126th appearance for Sweden, tied it by knocking in a rebound from close range in the 87th minute.

Germany, which lost the bronze-medal game to Sweden in the inaugural world championship in China in 1991, took a 2-0 first-half lead on goals by Bettina Wiegmann (penalty) in the ninth minute and Ursula Lohn in the 45th.

The Germans came close to scoring again early in the first half when Maren Meinert hit the crossbar with a long-range rocket and minutes later Patricia Brocker's diving header flew just wide of the post.

Akemi Noda netted both goals — Japan's first ever in World Cup history after failing to score four years ago in China — against Brazil at Karlstad.

"We decided to play more offensively than against Germany and the gamble paid off," said coach Tamotsu Suzuki.

Tretinha connected with a shot that deflected off a Japanese defender to give Brazil a 1-0 lead in the seventh minute. Noda tied it with a header in 14th and grabbed the game-winner with another header just before half-time after a long pass down the field.

Noda, 25, played in the Italian League with Reggiana for two seasons, but returned to the Takarazuka Bunnies in Japan in 1993.

The top two teams in each of the three groups plus the two third-placed teams with the best records advance to the quarter-finals.

Results & Tables

GROUP ONE

In Zabrze: Poland 5 Slovakia 0 (halftime 1-0)
Scorers: Andrzej Juskowiak (9th and 74th min), Tomasz Wieszczycki (59th), Roman Kosecki (64th), Piotr Nowak (71st).
Attendance: 15,000
In Bucharest: Romania 2 Israel 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Romania - Marius Lacatus (16th), Dorinel Munteanu (65th)
Israel - Eyal Bercoviz (50th)
Attendance: 26,000

TABLE

Romania	7	5	2	0	15	6	17
France	6	2	4	0	6	0	10
Poland	6	3	1	2	12	7	10
Israel	7	2	3	2	11	10	9
Slovakia	6	1	2	3	8	15	5
Azerbaijan	6	0	0	6	2	16	0

Next matches: *August 16 - France v Poland, Azerbaijan v Slovakia*

GROUP TWO

In Seville: Spain 1 Armenia 0 (0-0)
Scorer: Fernando Hierro (64th pen)
Attendance: 17,000
In Skopje: Macedonia 0 Belgium 5 (0-4)
Scorers: Georges Gruen (14th), Vincenzo Scifo (18th, 58th), Guenther Schepens (27th), Bruno Versavel (43rd)
The match was played in an empty stadium as a penalty imposed by the UEFA following unrest at Macedonia-Cyprus match played last December.
In Copenhagen: Denmark 4 Cyprus 0 (1-0)
Scorers: Kim Vilfort (45th, 50th mins), Brian Laudrup (58th), Michael Laudrup (75th)
Attendance: 40,199

TABLE

Spain	7	6	1	0	15	3	19
Belgium	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Denmark	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Macedonia	7	1	3	3	7	12	6
Cyprus	7	1	2	4	4	12	5
Armenia	6	0	2	4	2	9	2

Next match: *August 16 - Armenia v Denmark*

GROUP THREE

In Reykjavik: Iceland 2 Hungary 1 (0-1)
Scorers: Iceland - Gudni Bergsson (61st), Sigurdur Johnsson (66th)
Hungary - Istvan Vincze (19th)
Attendance - 3,573

TABLE

Turkey	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Switzerland	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Sweden	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Hungary	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Iceland	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

GROUP FOUR

In Vilnius: Lithuania 2 Slovenia 1 (0-0)
Scorers: Lithuania - Ramunas Stonkus (47th), Arunas Suika (69th)
Slovenia - Primoz Gliha (82nd)
Attendance - 6,000
In Kiev: Ukraine 1 Croatia 0 (halftime 1-0)
Scorer: Yuri Kalitvintsev (13th minute)
Attendance: 10,000.
In Estonia: Slovenia 3 Estonia 1 (halftime 1-1)
Scorers: Slovenia: Novak (38th minute, 69th), Zahovic (71st).
Estonia: Reim (27th).

TABLE

Croatia	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Lithuania	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Ukraine	7	3	1	3	5	8	10
Slovenia	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Estonia	7	0	0	7	2	18	0

Next match: *Aug 16 - Estonia v Lithuania*

GROUP FIVE

In Luxembourg: Luxembourg 1 Czech Republic 0 (0-0)
Scorer: Guy Hellers (90th minute)
Attendance: 1,500
In Oslo: Norway 2 Malta 0 (1-0)
Scorers: Jan-Aage Fjoertoft (43rd), Jostein Flo (88th)
Attendance: 15,180
In Minsk: Belarus 1 Netherlands 0 (halftime 1-0)
Scorer - Sergei Gerasimets 25th
Attendance: 12,000

EUROPEAN

Bulgaria repeated its World Cup victory over Germany in a night of shocks for former champions in last Wednesday's European Championship qualifiers.

Trailing 2-0 just before half-time, Hristo Stoichkov inspired Bulgaria to a stirring 3-2 victory over the team that won in 1980 and 1972 to prove its surprise triumph in USA '94 was no fluke.

It was also a memorable night for the continent's minnows in the wake of Liechtenstein's trend-setting 0-0 draw against the Republic of Ireland last Saturday week.

Belarus toppled mighty 1988 champion the Netherlands 1-0 and Luxembourg notched up a similar win over the Czech Republic, which won the title in 1976 under the guise of Czechoslovakia.

However, current champion Denmark bucked the trend and thrashed Cyprus 4-0 while Spain has virtually qualified from Group 2 following an unexpectedly difficult 1-0 win over a 10-man Armenia.

Two Stoichkov penalties, in the 45th and 66th minutes, and a 69th minute strike from Emil Kostadinov, completed the fightback in Sofia after Jurgen Klinsmann and Thomas Strunz had given Germany the lead.

Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov.

Bulgaria, which surged five points clear at the top of Group 7, caused the sensation of last year's World Cup by beating defending champion Germany 2-1 in the quarter-finals.

In that match, European footballer of the Year Stoichkov scored the equaliser to Lothar Matthaus' opener, before Yordan Lechkov, who played for German first division club Hamburg, headed in the winner.

German coach Berti Vogts felt a draw would have been the fair result.

"We gradually lost the control in midfield we had at the start. We are very disappointed with the result as we wasted many chances through negligence.

"But we will keeping going and we still have a good chance to reach England," Vogts said.

In the 17th minute, Thomas Hassler fed Klinsmann from the right. And the German skipper, who recently joined Bayern Munich from Tottenham Hotspur, sidefooted the ball past Bulgarian keeper Borislav Mikhailov to help ease the pain of that July 10 New York defeat.

In the 44th minute, Thomas Strunz shocked the 50,000 crowd when, teed up by Klinsmann, he fired Germany's second into the roof of the net.

Then, moments before half-time, Strunz was again involved in goal action. This time, the 27-year-old Stuttgart midfielder's foul on Balakov allowed Stoichkov to stride to the spot and slot the ball firmly to the right of Kopke.

In the second half, Bulgaria continually swept forward in search of an equaliser and the Germans managed to keep their opponents at bay only until the 66th minute.

Emil Kostadinov, whose last-minute goal against France earned his team its World Cup spot, was fouled in the box. Stoichkov converted his second penalty to give Bulgaria an equaliser with time in hand to look for a winner.

In the event, only three more minutes were needed for Kostadinov to take advantage of confusion in the German defence and confirm Bulgaria's supremacy over the three-times world champions.

Belarus' hero was Sergei Gerasimets, who struck in the 27th minute of its Group 5 tie in Minsk.

Luxembourg looked to be heading for an unexpected point when Standard Liege midfielder Guy Hellers scored a last-minute goal to bring victory to the principality.

Poland kept alive its hopes of qualifying from Group 1 with a 5-0 thrashing of Slovakia.

Sporting Lisbon ace Andrzej Juskowiak twice got on the scoresheet and Tomas Wieszczycki, Roman Kosecki, and Krzysztof Nowak also found the net.

Poland moved into third place, but level on points with France.

Elsewhere in the group, Israel suffered its second consecutive defeat, going down 2-1 to Romania in Bucharest.

Defending champion Denmark was 4-0 winner over Cyprus in Group 2 — with brothers Brian and Michael Laudrup both getting onto the scoresheet. Kim Vilfort got the other two goals.

Spain's Fernando Hierro got the winner in its 1-0 win in Seville just after Armenia's Valdanian had been sent off in the 63rd minute.

But with 19 points from a possible 21 to head Group 2, Spain leads both Belgium and Denmark by eight points and only an incredible collapse could prevent it reaching next year's finals.

The biggest victory of the night came from Russia, which showed no mercy on San Marino with a 7-0 win, though Belgium also scored freely — 5-0 in Macedonia.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland seriously damaged its chances of qualifying after losing 2-1 at home to Latvia in Group 6.

A NIGHT OF

WALES 0 GEORGIA 1

Wales' nightmarish run in the European championship continued when it had midfielder Vinnie Jones sent off during the 1-0 defeat by Georgia.

Jones was dismissed by Finnish referee Ilkka Koho just 28 minutes into the group seven qualifier for stamping on striker Mikhail Kavelashvili's midriff.

Jones tried to help Kavelashvilli to his feet as he protested his innocence. But Koho had no hesitation in brandishing the red card.

It was the third time this season that Wimbledon hard man Jones had been sent off.

Ten-man Wales — beaten 5-0 by Georgia in Tbilisi in November — held on until 17 minutes from time when a brilliant chip by Georgi Kinkladze sent it tumbling to its fifth defeat in six games.

The tricky Kinkladze, who had bossed the game in Tbilisi, had not been so dominant this time and when he picked up the ball 25 metres out there seemed little danger.

Welsh skipper Barry Horne appeared to have closed him down but Kinkladze delivered the perfect chip which beat the back-pedalling Neville Southall in goal.

Earlier in the half Shota Arveladze had come close to breaking Welsh resistance when he thumped a shot against the bar with Southall well beaten.

BULGARIA 3 GERMANY 2

Bulgaria enjoyed a night of celebration after a 3-2 win over Germany virtually clinched the national team's place in next year's European championships.

The streets of Sofia and other major cities resounded with car horns and chants of "Bulgaria are the champions" as happy fans waved national flags of the white, green and red tricolor.

"We have the greatest team in the world. We will beat the Germans again," a 20-year-old student said, his voice hoarse from shouting.

Hristo Stoichkov, with two penalties, and substitute Emil Kostadinov scored the goals which secured Bulgaria's second big win over Germany in a year following its 2-1 World Cup quarter-final victory last July.

"Stoichkov and Kostadinov are pure gold," one fan exulted.

Police were out in force to control surging and often drunken crowds. A policeman was injured in central Sofia after a drunken youth lobbed a bottle at him, eyewitnesses said.

More than two hours after the match ended, Bulgarian television was still reshowing the goals and interviews with players and excited viewers were calling in from across the country.

Vast numbers also called a hotline set up by Bulgarian National Radio with messages and greetings for the team.

NORTHERN IRELAND 1 LATVIA 2

Northern Ireland's dreams of a place in the 1996 European championships all but died when it lost 2-1 at home to Latvia.

The home side went ahead in first-half injury time through striker Iain Dowie but then conceded two goals in four minutes in the second half.

Northern Ireland has now only 10 points from seven games and realistically is now out of contention.

Ireland manager Jack Charlton, who watched the game, was sympathetic to Northern Ireland's efforts after his own experience against Liechtenstein last weekend when the sides ended 0-0.

"Conditions were not exactly perfect and that made life hard for Northern Ireland," he said. "The pitch was bumpy and the wind made good football very difficult."

But that will come as no consolation to Northern Ireland boss Bryan Hamilton, who knew a win was a must.

Irish hopes were raised in injury time when Dowie managed to turn in a free- kick from Michael Hughes.

Northern Ireland looked to be in no real danger until the 58th minute when Armands Zeiberlins raced through the middle of the defence to slip the ball past Alan Fettis.

A shocked silence gripped the crowd but before they had time to realise what was happening, Northern Ireland was behind.

This time Vitalijs Astafjevs went through unchallenged as Irish defenders stood motionless claiming off-side.

SPAIN 1 ARMENIA 0

A second-half penalty from Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro gave

CHAMPIONSHIP

What's wrong with Sweden?

Less than 12 months after hundreds of thousands of Swedes lined the streets of Stockholm to honour the national soccer squad for its World Cup exploits in the United States, the side has been plunged into disarray.

The 1-1 draw against Iceland a fortnight ago, on the back of a string of unimpressive results this year, means Sweden is on the verge of failing to qualify for next year's European championship finals in England.

The glum faces of Sweden's players and fans after the draw against Iceland were a far cry from the street parades that greeted the team last July after Sweden reached the World Cup semi-finals before going down 1-0 to eventual winner Brazil.

Pressure is now growing on national coach Tommy Svensson — who turned down a job offer from Atletico Bilbao last month — to step down. The Stockholm tabloid daily Expressen has reported that Svensson, 50, had said he would resign, but the report could not be confirmed.

Svensson, a shy figure who dug Sweden out of the mess of the 1990 World Cup in Italy when the team failed to win a single point, said the result was a major disappointment, although Sweden still has a mathematical chance of qualifying.

Since the triumphant Swedes returned from the US, where it beat Bulgaria 4-0 to take third place, the team has won just three of its last eight matches, losing three and drawing two.

Sweden's recent performances are hard to explain because the national squad is packed with players who often do well at top European clubs.

Parma striker Tomas Brolin marked his first international appearance since breaking his ankle six months ago with Sweden's only goal against Iceland a penalty, after Iceland had taken a shock lead after just two minutes.

Arsenal's Stefan Schwarz and Everton's Anders Limpar looked exhausted after bright starts, while Feyenoord's exciting dreadlocked striker Henrik Larsson seemed too lightweight against the muscular Icelandic defenders.

Sweden was a complete contrast from 1994, when Brolin delighted with innovations and Thomas Ravelli's goalkeeping made him a national hero.

To qualify for next year's finals, Sweden now has to beat Switzerland and Turkey and hope Iceland overcomes Turkey.

Happy days: Sweden's Henrik Larssen, Tomas Brolin, Klas Ingesson, Thomas Ravelli and Kenneth Andersson celebrate their World Cup quarter-final victory over Romania a year ago.

UPSETS IN EUROPE

group two leader Spain a 1-0 win over a stubborn and disciplined Armenia in a European championship qualifier.

Hierro, who had numerous chances to give Spain an earlier lead, crashed the ball home from the spot on 64 minutes after Armenian defender Valdalnian handled the ball on the goal-line.

Valdalnian, whose outstretched arm stopped a certain goal from Julio Salinas, was sent off but Spain failed to make its extra man count and was happy to settle for a victory which for a long time seemed might not come.

Hierro thundered a long-range shot against the crossbar in the opening minutes and missed a simple header later in the half.

Madrid team mate Jose Amavisca squandered two first-half chances and Julen Guerrero had a shot blocked by goalkeeper Abrahamian, among Armenia's best players on the night.

Abrahamian brilliantly turned a Hierro free-kick round the post on the hour and Spain looked set to falter to its second consecutive home draw.

But Spanish pressure finally paid off and the win left unbeaten in seven European championship qualifiers and top of group two with 19 points.

Victory failed to please a 17,000-strong Seville crowd who heckled coach Javier Clemente for failing to play local hero Angel Cuellar of Real Betis. Cuellar watched the game from the bench.

SPAIN: 1-Andoni Zubizarreta, 2-Alberto Belsue, 3-Miguel Nadal, 4-Rafael Alkorta, 5-Abelardo Fernandez, 6-Fernando Hierro, 7-Julen Guerrero (15-Jose Luis Caminero 77th minute), 8-Agustin Aranzabal, 9-Luis Enrique Martinez, 10-Jose Amavisca, 11-Juan Goikoetxea (16-Julio Salinas 46th).

IRELAND 1 AUSTRIA 3

Ireland's hopes of reaching next year's European championship finals in England took a severe knock on Sunday when it went down 3-1 at home to Austria in their group six qualifying match at Lansdowne Road.

Three goals in a nine-minute spell in the second half from Tony Polster (69th and 78th) and Andreas Ogris (72nd) gave the Austrians a surprisingly easy victory which moves them up to third place two points behind Ireland with a game in hand.

With the three points dropped today, added to the two presented to Liechenstein in a scoreless draw nine days ago, it leaves Jack Charlton's side needing to win all of its remaining group matches if it is to make it to England.

Ireland looked on its way to a much-needed home win when Ray Houghton tapped into an empty net in the 65th minute after substitute striker Tony Cascarino had created the opening.

But the Irish celebrations proved premature when four minutes later Polster notched his ninth goal of the qualifying rounds, curling a 30-metre free-kick around the wall and low into the bottom right-hand corner.

In the 72nd minute Austrian went ahead when defender Johann Kogler played a through ball behind the home defence for substitute Andreas Ogris to run on to and slot the ball home wide of goalkeeper Alan Kelly.

Irish midfielder Ronnie Whelan was booked in the aftermath of the goal for protesting that defender Denis Irwin had been fouled coming out of defence, leaving Kogler with plenty of time to put Ogris clear up the right side.

Ireland's agony was complete in the 78th minute when Polster notched his second of the game, rising high above defender Gary Kelly to head home a free-kick from midfielder Christian Prosenik into the roof of the Ireland net.

For the first time since Charlton took over as manager in 1986, Ireland was booed off the field by its own supporters at the final whistle while the small contingent of Austrian supporters were sent home singing. Austrian coach Herbert Prohasten was clearly delighted with his team's performance.

"The key to this result was equalising so soon after they had scored. If we win our next game away in Latvia in August, we will be in a strong position to qualify," he said.

Ireland manager Jack Charlton was less content. "I had a feeling something like this might happen," he said.

"But it's still in our hands. There is still a long way to go in this European championship campaign."

Charlton was also unhappy with the performance of the German referee Markus Merk.

"The first goal resulted from a free-kick that wasn't. For the second goal, the referee decided to give us a free-kick but then changed his mind and Austria scored. It just was not our day," he said.

Results & Tables

TABLE

Norway	7	6	1	0	16	1	19
Netherlands	7	3	2	2	15	5	11
Czech Republic	6	3	2	1	13	5	11
Belarus	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Luxembourg	7	2	0	5	2	18	6
Malta	7	0	2	5	2	15	2

Next match: *August 16 - Norway v Czech Republic*

GROUP SIX

In Belfast: Northern Ireland 1 Latvia 2 (1-0)
Scorers: Northern Ireland - Ian Dowie (44th)
Latvia - Armands Zeiberlins (58th), Vitalijs Astasjevs (62nd)
Attendance: 6,000

In Dublin: Austria 3 Ireland 1 (halftime 0-0)
Scorers: Ireland - Ray Houghton (65th minute)
Austria - Anton Polster (69th, 78th), Andreas Ogris (72nd),
Attendance: 33,000

TABLE

Portugal	6	5	0	1	17	5	15
Ireland	7	4	2	1	14	4	14
Austria	6	4	0	2	20	4	12
Northern Ireland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Latvia	7	2	0	5	6	16	6
Liechtenstein	7	0	1	6	1	28	1

Next match: *Aug 15 - Liechtenstein v Portugal*

GROUP SEVEN

In Chisinau: Moldova 2 Albania 3 (2-2)
Scorers: Moldova - Alexandru Curteanu (11th), Sergei Kleshchenko (16th)
Albania - Sokol Kushta (8th), Arjan Bellai (26th), Rudi Vata (72nd)
Attendance - 7,000

In Sofia: Bulgaria 3 Germany 2 (halftime 1-2)
Scorers: Bulgaria - Hristo Stoichkov (45th minute penalty, 66th penalty), Emil Kostadinov (69th)
Germany - Juergen Klinsmann (18th), Thomas Strunz (44th)
Attendance: 50,000

In Cardiff: Wales 0 Georgia 1 (0-0)
Scorer: Georgi Kinkladze (73rd)
Attendance: 6,500

TABLE

Bulgaria	6	6	0	0	18	4	18
Germany	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Georgia	7	4	0	3	9	5	12
Albania	7	2	0	5	8	11	6
Moldova	7	2	0	5	7	18	6
Wales	7	1	1	5	6	16	4

Next matches: *September 6 - Germany v Georgia, Wales v Moldova, Albania v Bulgaria*

GROUP EIGHT

In San Marino: San Marino 0 Russia 7 (0-2)
Scorers: Igor Dobrovolsky (20th pen), Luca Gobbi 37th o.g.), Sergei Kiryakov (48th), Igor Shalimov (49th), Vladimir Beschastnykh (59th), Igor Kolyvanov (64th), Dmitry Cheryshev (85th)
Attendance: 1,400

In Totfir: Faroe Islands 0 Scotland 2 (0-2)
Scorers: Billy McKinlay (25th), John McGinlay (29th)
Attendance: 3,881

In Helsinki: Finland 2 Greece 1 (halftime 1-1)
Scorers:
Finland - Jari Litmanen (45th minute-penalty), Ari Hjelm (54th)
Greece - Themistoclis Nicolaidis (6th)
Attendance: 10,500

TABLE

Finland	7	5	0	2	17	8	15
Russia	6	4	2	0	18	1	14
Scotland	7	4	2	1	12	3	14
Greece	6	4	0	2	13	6	12
Faroe Islands	7	1	0	6	5	24	3
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	24	0

Next matches: *Aug 16 - Scotland v Greece, Finland v Russia*

News From Around The Globe

GASCOIGNE ACCIDENT BREADS NOSE

Paul Gascoigne found himself at the centre of a fresh controversy after the England star was accused of breaking Swedish midfielder Magnus Erlingmark's nose in last Thursday's 3-3 draw at Elland Road in the Umbro Cup.

Gascoigne came on as substitute 26 minutes from time with England trailing 3-1. But a last-gasp response saw goals from skipper David Platt - his 26th in an England shirt - and Darren Anderton salvage the draw.

But England's celebrations were overshadowed when the Swedish camp claimed Gascoigne had rammed his elbow into Erlingmark's face after he had been awarded the free-kick from which Platt scored to set up Anderton's grand finale.

BRAZIL SEND ENGLAND CRASHING

World champion Brazil sent England crashing to its worst home defeat in soccer since 1972 when it won the last match of the International Challenge Cup 3-1 with a superb attacking display in the second half.

Though England came from two goals down in the final two minutes to draw 3-3 with Sweden in mid-week, the side could find no way back against the Brazilians in a hard-fought match which ended the week-long four-team tournament.

Although England took the lead with a Graeme Le Saux goal after 39 minutes, Brazil replied with a 55th-minute free-kick from Juninho, a 62nd-minute solo effort by Ronaldo and a 77th-minute classic from Edmundo, who poked the ball through goalkeeper Tim Flowers' legs to score.

England's last home defeat by such a margin was when West Germany beat it by the same score in a European Championship match at Wembley 23 years ago.

The defeat was also England's first in 10 matches under coach Terry Venables. It stretched Brazil's unbeaten run to 20 matches since November 1993 and earned the side the $A1,111,350 first prize for winning the tournament.

Brazilian Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, world soccer's governing body, presented Brazil's World Cup-winning captain Dunga with the Umbro Cup donated by the sponsors.

ENGLAND: 1-Tim Flowers; 12-Gary Neville, 21-Colin Cooper, 5- John Scales (2-Warren Barton 90th), 14-Stuart Pearce, 3-Graeme Le Saux, 4-David Batty (19-Paul Gascoigne 78th), 7-David Platt, 22-Teddy Sheringham (6-Stan Collymore 78th), 11-Darren Anderton, 9-Alan Shearer.

BRAZIL: 1-Zetti; 2-Jorginho, 3-Aldair (4-Ronaldao 89th), 15-Marcio Santos, 5-Cesar Sampaio, 6-Roberto Carlos, 8-Dunga, 7-Edmundo, 9-Ronaldo (21-Giovanni 77th), 10-Juninho (19-Leonardo 84th), 11-Zinho

ENGLAND TABLE

Brazil	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
England	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Sweden	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Japan	3	0	1	2	3	7	1

LONG WAIT OVER FOR SPORTING

Bulgarian striker Ivailo Iordanov scored twice to thrust Sporting to a 2-0 win over Maritimo in the Portuguese Cup final last Saturday, their first major trophy in 13 years.

Sporting, who achieved the Cup and league double in 1982, went ahead in the ninth minute when Iordanov scored with a close-range header from a cross by midfielder Carlos Xavier.

UNFANCY BETIS MOVE CLOSER TO EUROPE

Real Betis, in their first year back in the Spanish first division, took a big step towards a UEFA Cup spot next season when they beat city neighbours Sevilla 2-1 at home on Sunday.

A 14th-minute goal by Polish forward Kowalczyk and another by Juan Sabas in the 77th gave Betis the vital points in a fast and furious derby watched by 45,000 passionate fans.

The win gave Betis 44 points from 37 games and lifted them into third place, above outgoing champions Barcelona on goal difference although well behind new champions Real Madrid and second placed Deportivo Coruna.

Sevilla, also bidding for a UEFA Cup place, stay fifth two points behind Betis and Barcelona.

Barcelona, who slumped to a shock home defeat by humble Albacete, must now win their final game next Sunday away at Athletic Bilbao to be sure of maintaining their record of never in their history failing to qualify for European competition.

Bilbao, 1-0 away winners over relegated Real Valladolid, are on 42 points themselves and still have a slim UEFA Cup chance if they can beat the Catalans.

When Sabas beat the Sevilla offside trap to notch Betis' second goal in a slick counter-attack, the game looked settled. But Sevilla refused to lie down and pulled a goal back in a goalmouth scramble eight minutes from time to set up a frantic finale.

Betis cannot lower their guard as their final match involves an unenviable visit to Santiago Bernabeu to play runaway champions Real Madrid.

At the other end of the table Atletico Madrid, fighting to escape the relegation play-off zone, scored a vital 2-0 home win over Real Zaragoza to edge away from the danger area. A towering performance from Spanish international midfielder Jose Caminero helped Atletico take the points with a first-half penalty and a clinching goal by veteran striker Manolo Sanchez one minute from time.

STEAUA WIN AGAIN

Steaua Bucharest won its 17th Romanian first division title last Saturday when it beat F.C. National Bucharest 3-0.

The result gave Steaua an unbeatable nine-point lead over second-placed Universitatea Craiova with each club having just two matches left.

GERMAN TITLE RACE DOWN TO THE WIRE

Werder Bremen must wait till the last round of matches to be assured of the German championship, despite a 2-1 win against SC Karlsruhe last Saturday.

Mario Basler with his 19th goal of the season and Marco Bode scored for Bremen, which has a one point lead over Borussia Dortmund and visits Bayern Munich next week.

Dortmund surged back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at MSV Duisburg to remain with a chance of the title. Borussia hosts SV Hamburg next week.

A Michael Zorc penalty and two more goals from Stefan Reuter finished off the fightback by Dortmund which led by four points after the winter break.

Fifth-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach looks set to win the last UEFA Cup spot following a 3-1 win over VfB Stuttgart.

Bayern Munich, one place and two points further back, will hope Moenchengladbach wins the German Cup final on June 24 against second division Wolfsburg. Should Moenchengladbach win, it would qualify for the European Cup Winners' Cup and present Munich with the last UEFA Cup spot.

Freiburg and Kaiserslautern both beat lowly opposition in Bayer Uerdingen and Munich 1860 respectively and are assured of UEFA Cup qualification next season.

NEWS FROM ITALY...

Parma chase Signori

UEFA Cup holder Parma has made a $A21.27 million bid for Lazio and Italy striker Giuseppe Signori (below), Italian newspapers reported on Sunday.

"There are some offers that you just can't refuse. I'm a businessman and cannot close my eyes to some valuations," Lazio's owner Sergio Cragnotti was quoted as saying.

"But I'm also a fan and a sale would upset me," he added.

Newspapers speculated that Cragnotti would accept the offer for Signori, the most consistent goal scorer in Serie A in his three seasons with the Roman club.

It would be one of the biggest deals in soccer history, almost matching the estimated$A22.24 million) move which took Gianluca Vialli from Sampdoria to Juventus in 1992. Parma was also reported to be interested in signing Croatian striker Alen Boksic from Lazio.

But the move for the Lazio pair could mean the club has dropped out of the bidding for Roberto Baggio, set to leave Juventus after failing to agree a new contract.

AC Milan now appears favourite to sign former European footballer of the year Baggio although it still faces competition from city rival Internazionale.

Juve win Cup

Juventus defender Sergio Porrini, who scored in the first leg, netted again as his team beat Parma 2-0 on the night and 3-0 on aggregate in the Italian Cup final to complete a domestic double.

Porrini, one of the unsung heroes of the Juventus team, slotted home a loose ball in the 26th minute of the second leg following a scramble in the Parma goalmouth.

The defender had headed the winner in Juventus' 1-0 win in the first leg last Wednesday.

That goal left Parma, who beat Juventus in the UEFA Cup final last month, needing to score three times to take the trophy. But it was Juventus who scored again, silver-haired striker Fabrizio Ravanelli racing clear in the 54th minute as the Parma defence appealed for offside and curling a lobbed shot to which goalkeeper Luca Bucci got a hand to but could not stop.

Parma completed a bad night by having World Cup defender Luigi Apolloni sent off five minutes from time for his second bookable offence.

It was only the fourth time that a club has completed the Italian double. Juventus did it in 1960 while Torino (1943) and Napoli (1987) are the only others to achieve the feat. Defender Ciro Ferrara, part of that 1987 Napoli team, becomes the first player to appear in two double-winning teams while Juventus have now won the Italian Cup a record nine times.

Juventus completed the triumph without the injured Roberto Baggio, their unsettled Italy star who appears set to leave the club for either AC Milan or Internazionale.

They also lost striker Gianluca Vialli in the 29th minute when he limped off with a thigh strain.

That injury means Vialli is unlikely to be fit for forthcoming Italian friendlies with Switzerland and Germany, assuming that coach Arrigo Sacchi had planned to recall him after over two years in the wilderness.

GENOA RELEGATED

Padova's Dutch midfielder Michel Kreek condemned Genoa to Italian soccer's second division last Saturday.

Padova won a play-off to stay in Serie A after a nail-biting 5-4 penalty shoot-out at the end of a 1-1 draw. Kreek's penalty came after Genoa's Fabio Galante sent his attempt high over the bar.

Genoa goalkeeper Gianpaolo Spagnulo, brilliant all afternoon, looked set to be the hero after saving Padova's first penalty from Gaetano Fontana.

But after a fine save by his counterpart Adriano Bonaiuti, the two teams traded goals until Kreek sealed the win. Padova, who needed only a draw last week to stay in Serie A but lost after Internazionale scored in the dying seconds, had dominated Saturday's match, although Genoa were often dangerous on the counter-attack.

Alive and kicking?

Dejan Savicevic: Yugoslavia's top player.

WHILE the optimists, mainly from the FA and the leading clubs, proclaim that Yugoslav football is still 'very much alive', the pessimists fear for the worst.

There are not many fans on the terraces — average attendances are well below the 4,500 mark — and many fear soccer in 'new Yugoslavia' (Serbia and Montenegro), faced with the horrifying political and economic turmoil and temporarily lifted sports sanctions, will follow the same, sad path as Hungary, where the game has never recovered from Soviet intervention nearly four decades ago.

Although club giants such as Red Star or Partizan insist they will do their best to keep the player exodus under control, their rising stars — Kovacevic, Stojkovski, Petkovic of Red Star, Milosevic and Curcic of Partizan, Pantelic of Vojvodina Nova Sad — have already started to eye lucrative contracts in Italy and Spain.

Soon they are expected to join the army of more than 120 Yugoslav professionals playing all around the globe, from Japan — Stojkovic, Binic, Maslovar, Vasilijevic — to, ironically, Hungary.

The best of them, who left the country very young, have established high reputations in the strongest European leagues: Savicevic (Milan), Mihaljlovic and Jugovic (Sampdoria) in Italy; Jokanovic (Oviedo), Mijatovic (Valencia), Djukic (La Coruna), Brnovic (Espanol), in Spain; Drulovic (Porto) in Portugal; and Dubajic (Stuttgart), Komljenovic (Eintracht Frankfurt) in Germany.

There is legitimate concern that the existing trend will leave domestic competition without the quality players to attract even the minimal interest of fans who still remember the days with Red Star Belgrade.

A delicate balance between the development of highly talented youths and export of 'final products' seems to be heavily damaged, partly due to the fact that the most prominent and experienced coaches — Boskov, Stepanovic, Antic, V. Popovic, Draskovic, Zec. Milosevic, Popadic, Lukic, Cabrinovic — have also flown abroad, partly because of lack of expertise and strategy within the leading clubs who simply do not know how, where and when to spend substantial money earned from big transfers.

Heros OF Yesteryear

A look back at some of the memorable players who made their names in past World Cups

EUSEBIO
1966

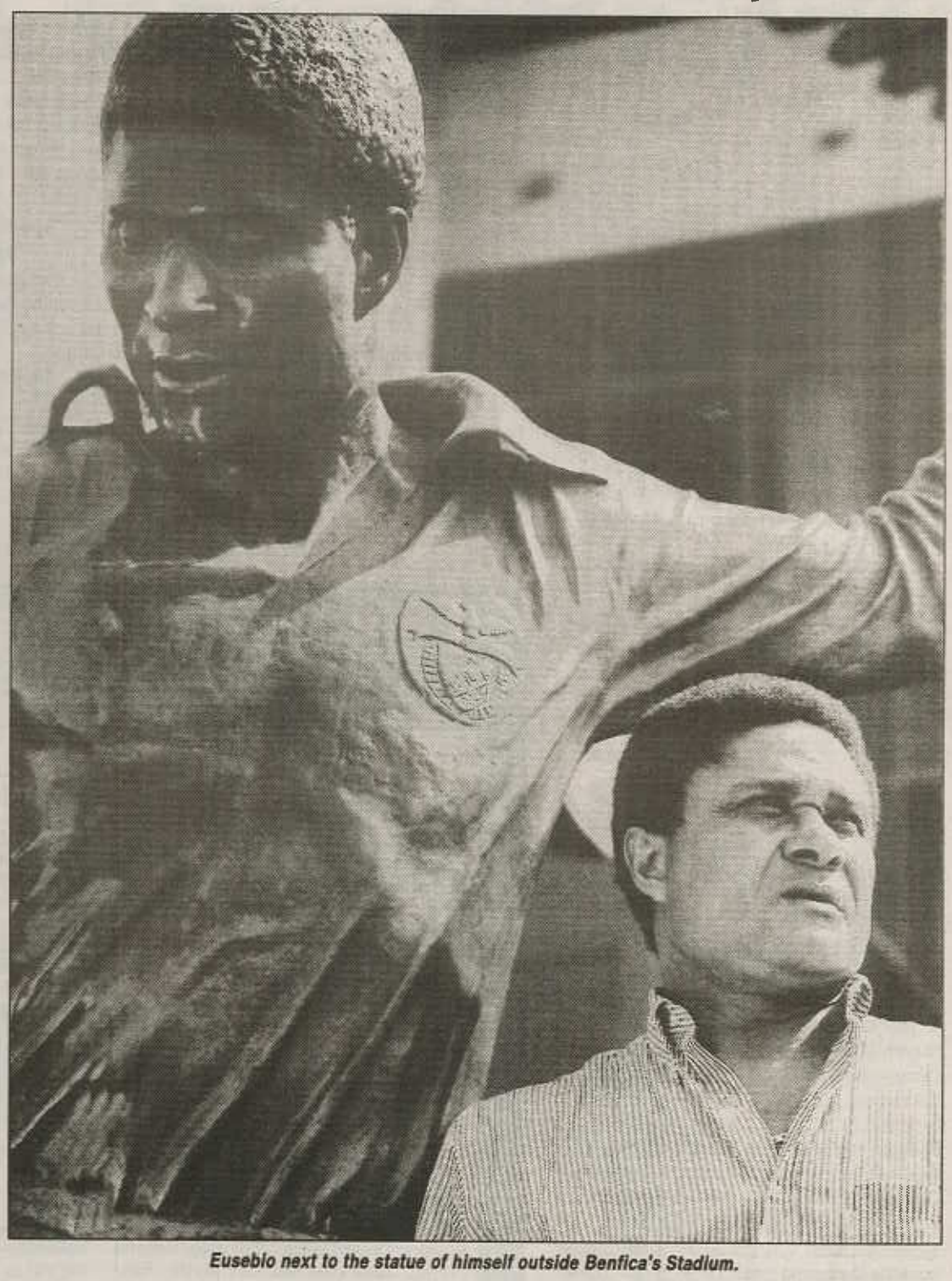
EUSEBIO da Silva Ferreira burst on the World cup scene with nine goals in the 1966 tournament in England, tops in the competition. And although this was his only appearance in the final stages, Eusebio left a permanent impression. He was blessed with scintillating pace and a rocket shot, was exceptional in the air, and could easily take on several opponents in close confines.

Born in poverty in the southeastern African country of Mozambique (a Portuguese possession until 1975), Eusebio was brought to Lisbon by top club side Benfica. He made his international debut at the age of 19 and remains the most honoured Portuguese player, with 77 international appearances.

Five of those appearances came in 1966, but one stands out — the quarter-final encounter with North Korea. After the North Koreans had somehow rushed to a 3-0 lead, Eusebio replied with four unanswered goals (and set up a fifth).

That was as far as Portugal got, however, as England won the semi-final by 2-1. Today Eusebio still is with Benfica, only now he is a club executive.

Power in the air: Eusebio climbs well during the 1966 World Cup in England.



Eusebio next to the statue of himself outside Benfica's Stadium.

Nearly 20 years after Eusebio retired as a player, he still works as an assistant coach for his old club Benfica and is still recognised wherever he goes.

The "Black Panther" thrilled crowds with some 1,000 goals during his professional career from 1960 to 1975 as a striker with Benfica and the Portuguese national side.

Eusebio is now 52, but foreign teams still ask him to appear in friendly matches between veteran players.

The Mozambican-born player says football has changed since he retired as a professional.

"In my time, football was more of a spectacle — now it's more tactical. But I don't think the game has lost any of its glamour," he said.

He disagrees with critics who complain there are not enough strikers in today's teams.

"I think there are a lot of strikers, but they need to train a lot to score more goals — just as I did, staying behind to practise in the stadium every day after the normal team training session ended," he said.

Eusebio's goal tally bears witness to his pedigree. He scored 41 goals in 64 appearances with the national side during the 1960s and 1970s and twice won Europe's Golden Boot award as the top European scorer.

Judged the greatest name in Portuguese soccer, Eusebio helped put Portugal on the map at a time when the country was shunned by the rest of the world because of its right-wing dictatorship, overthrown by the 1974 revolution.

Dictator Antonio Oliveira Salazar once blocked a bid for the powerfully built striker by Italy's Inter Milan declaring: "Eusebio is part or the state's heritage."

The world soccer body FIFA finally rewarded the striker's long service to football by awarding him its Order of Merit. The honour was formally bestowed on Eusebio in Chicago on June 15, just before the World Cup finals in the U.S.

"After so many years I wasn't expecting it. This could only happen once in a lifetime," Eusebio said. "This gesture by FIFA shows that all those years of football were worth it."

A statue of the soccer hero, erected to celebrate his 50th birthday, graces the entrance to Benfica's Luz Stadium.

After retiring as a player in 1975, Eusebio returned to Benfica in 1979 as a coach for young players selected by talent spotters.

In 1983, he was promoted to assistant coach for the club's first division side under Swede Sven Goran Eriksson.

Eusebio's enduring popularity, often compared with that of Brazil's Pele, allows him to play the role of Benfica's "roving ambassador".

"I feel proud when I go into the streets and see a kid, only five or six years old, who's never seen me play, tugging his parents' sleeves and saying: 'Look at Eusebio! Look at Eusebio!'," he said in an interview.

Perhaps Eusebio is best remembered for hauling Portugal to victory in a World Cup match against North Korea in 1966 against dire odds.

Portugal, 3-0 down after 20 minutes, managed to win 5-3, thanks to four spectacular goals by Eusebio.

"I never thought about losing," he recalls. "Every time I scored, I didn't celebrate so as not to lose time. I went to get the ball from the back of the net so we could kick off as quickly as possible."

WORLD RESULTS AND TABLES

DANISH LEAGUE
— June 6 —

Arhus ....3 Broendby 0
Aalborg ....0 Odense 0
FC Copenhagen ....2 Silkeborg 2
Naestved ....2 Lyngby 1

TABLE

Aalborg	12	6	4	2	25	11	29
Broendby	12	5	3	4	19	16	27
Silkeborg	12	6	3	3	22	12	24
Aarhus	12	6	2	4	18	17	22
Odense	12	3	3	6	15	21	21
Naestved	12	3	4	5	16	20	19
Lyngby	12	4	1	7	16	25	19
FC Copenhagen	12	3	4	5	18	27	18

Note: Points include those from autumn part of season.

Austrian Cup Final
— June 6 —

Rapid Vienna 1 (Peter Guggi 20th) bt DSV Leoben 0. Crowd: 15,000

Swiss Cup
— June 6 —

Sion 4 (Ouattara 5th, 84th, Assis 40th pen, Bonvin 68th bt Grasshoppers 2 (Vega 52nd, Willelms 70th). Crowd: 30,500

International Chellenge Cup
— June 6 —

Brazil beat Japan 3-0 (halftime 1-0) in a four-nations soccer challenge match at Goodison Park on Tuesday.
Scorers: Roberto Carlos (6th minute), Zinho (51st, 68th)
Attendance: 29,327

TABLE

Brazil	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Japan	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Sweden	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

For final table see page 22

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA
— June 10 —

Duisburg ....2 Borussia Dortmund .3
Werder Bremen ....2 Karlsruhe 1
Munich 1860 ....1 Kaiserslautern 3
Dynamo Dresden ....0 Bayern Munich 1
Bochum ....5 Schalke 1
Freiburg ....1 Bayer Uerdingen 0
Borussia M'gladbach ..3 VfB Stuttgart 1
Hamburg ....3 Eintracht Frankfurt ..1
Cologne ....3 Bayer Leverkusen 3

TABLE

Werder Bremen	33	20	8	5	69	36	48
Borussia Dortmund	33	19	9	5	65	33	47
Freiburg	33	19	6	8	64	43	44
Kaiserslautern	33	16	12	5	55	40	44
Borussia M'gladbach	33	17	9	7	64	38	43
Bayern Munich	33	14	13	6	52	40	41
Bayer Leverkusen	33	13	9	11	60	49	35
Karlsruhe	33	11	13	9	49	45	35
Cologne	33	11	10	12	53	51	32
Schalke	33	10	11	12	47	52	31
Eintracht Frankfurt	33	11	9	13	38	48	31
Hamburg	33	10	9	14	43	48	29
VfB Stuttgart	33	9	10	14	49	65	28
1860 Munich	33	8	11	14	40	54	27
Bayer Uerdingen	33	6	11	16	34	50	23
Bochum	33	9	3	21	41	65	21
Duisburg	33	6	8	19	30	61	20
Dynamo Dresden	33	4	7	22	31	66	15

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP
— June 10 —

Aarau ....4 Lausanne 1
Grasshoppers ....0 Lugano 4
Neuchatel Xamax ....3 Lucerne 3
Sion ....1 Basle 2

TABLE

Grasshoppers	13	9	2	2	25	13	36
Lugano	13	5	5	3	22	15	28
Neuchatel	13	5	4	4	24	17	26
Aarau	13	4	4	5	16	16	25
Sion	13	5	2	6	22	22	24
Basle	13	7	0	6	20	18	24
Lucerne	13	5	4	4	14	18	24
Lausanne	13	1	1	11	9	32	15

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
— June 11 —

Barcelona 0 Albacete 1 (Bjelica 30 min), 0-1, attendance 60,000
Celta 0 Real Madrid 2 (Raul 82, Rivera 87), 0-0, 30,000
Deportivo Coruna 5 (Djukic 6, Bebeto 21 and 41, Fran 35, Salinas 39) **Logrones 0,** 5-0, 30,000
Valencia 4 (Penev 49 pen, 75 and 90, Fernando 89)
Compostela 1 (Ohen 67), 0-0, 30,000
Atletico Madrid 2 (Geli pen 24, Manolo 89), **Real Zaragoza 0** 1-0, 50,000
Real Betis 2 (Kowalczyk 14, Sabas 77) **Sevilla 1** (Tevenet 82), 1-0, 45,000
Real Oviedo 1 (Oli 58) **Sporting Gijon 0,** 1-0, 23,000
Real Sociedad 0 Racing Santander 1 (Radchenko 20), 0-1, 18,000
Real Valladolid 0 Athletic Bilbao 1 (Guerrero 63), 0-0, 10,000.
Tenerife 1 (Castillo 50) **Espanol 1** (Francisco 36), 0-1.

TABLE

Real Madrid	37	23	9	5	76	27	55
Deportivo Coruna	37	19	11	7	60	30	49
Real Betis	37	14	16	7	44	25	44
Barcelona	37	17	10	10	58	45	44
Espanol	37	14	14	9	51	35	42
Sevilla	37	16	10	11	53	39	42
Real Zaragoza	37	18	6	13	54	49	42
Athletic Bilbao	37	16	10	11	39	40	42
Real Oviedo	37	13	13	11	45	40	39
Real Sociedad	37	12	13	12	56	44	37
Valencia	37	13	11	13	51	45	37
Tenerife	37	13	9	15	56	54	35
Celta	37	10	14	13	33	48	34
Atletico Madrid	37	13	8	16	54	52	34
Racing Santander	37	12	10	15	40	47	34
Albacete	37	10	14	13	42	53	34
Compostela	37	10	12	15	41	56	32
Sporting Gijon	37	8	12	17	41	64	28
Real Valladolid	37	7	9	21	22	62	23
Logrones	37	2	9	26	15	76	13

Spanish Leading goalscorers
Spanish first division

28 - Ivan Zamorano (Real Madrid)
25 - Meho Kodro (Real Sociedad)
16 - Davor Suker (Sevilla), Bebeto (Deportivo Coruna)
15 - Juan Esnaider (Real Zaragoza), Juan Pizzi (Tenerife)
14 - Angel Cuellar (Real Betis), Carlos Munoz (Real Oviedo)
13 - Vladimir Gudelj (Celta), Christopher Ohen (Compostela), Julen Guerrero (Athletic Bilbao)
12 - Pedrag Mijatovic (Valencia), Jordi Lardin (Espanol), Jose Zalazar (Albacete)

SERIE B TABLE

Piacenza	38	19	14	5	55	27	71
Udinese	38	19	13	6	63	35	70
Vicenza	38	17	17	4	54	26	68
Atalanta	38	17	15	6	49	36	66
Salernitana	38	16	13	9	57	40	61
Ancona	38	16	10	12	55	50	58
Perugia	38	12	18	8	47	35	54
Cesena	38	12	15	11	44	43	51
Venezia	38	14	8	16	46	44	50
Verona	38	11	15	12	40	40	48
Pescara	38	11	13	14	50	63	46
Palermo	38	10	14	14	33	35	44
Chievo V.	38	10	14	14	35	38	44
F. Andria	38	8	20	10	36	41	44
Cosenza	38	11	18	9	38	35	42
Lucchese	38	8	18	12	49	54	42
Acireale	38	10	11	17	27	42	41
Ascoli	38	7	13	18	27	57	34
Como	38	7	12	19	25	58	33
Lecce	38	5	9	24	36	67	24

SERIE B RESULTS

Acireale ....2 Cosenza 1
Ancona ....4 Perugia 3
Atalanta ....2 Salernitana 1
Como ....0 Chievo V. 0
Lucchese ....1 Piacenza 0
Pescara ....2 Palermo 0
Udinese ....3 F. Andria 1
Venezia ....2 Lecce 1
Verona ....5 Ascoli 0
Vicenza ....6 Cesenza 3

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
QUALIFYING MATCHES

GROUP 1

In Bucharest:
Romania ....1 Israel 0 (0-0)
Scorer: Vasile Matinca 75th
Attendance: 4,000
In Rydultowy:
Poland ....1 Slovakia 0 (1-0)
Scorer: Marcin Mieciel (3rd)
Attendance: 2,000

TABLE

Romania	7	4	2	1	13	4	14
Poland	6	4	1	1	11	7	13
France	6	3	2	1	13	2	11
Israel	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
Slovakia	6	2	1	3	4	6	7
Azerbaijan	6	0	0	6	3	25	0

Next match: Azerbaijan v Slovakia, August 15.

GROUP 2

In Granada:
Spain ....4 Armenia 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Oscar Garcia (28th pen), Roberto (42nd), Jose Luis Morales (64th), Raul Gonzalez (81st)
Attendance: 16,000
In Copenhagen:
Denmark ....4 Cyprus 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Michael Nonbo (36th minute), Steffen Hoeyer (39th), Allan Ravn Jensen (50th), Jon Dahl Thomasson (78th)
Attendance: 150
In Macedonia:
Macedonia ....3 Belgium 0 (2-0)
Attendance: 2,000

TABLE

Spain	7	5	2	0	19	4	17
Belgium	6	4	2	0	20	4	14
Denmark	6	3	0	3	17	10	9
Macedonia	6	2	0	4	8	18	6
Cyprus	7	2	0	5	5	20	6
Armenia	6	1	0	5	4	18	3

GROUP 3

In Iceland:
Iceland ....1 Hungary 1 (0-0)
Scorers: Iceland - Rutur Snorrason (68th min)
Hungary - Sandor Tamas (75th, pen)
Attendance: 160

TABLE

Hungary	5	4	1	0	7	3	13
Sweden	6	3	1	2	8	3	10
Turkey	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Switzerland	5	1	1	3	3	10	4
Iceland	5	0	1	4	2	8	1

Next match: Aug 15 - Iceland v Switzerland

GROUP 4

In Slovenia:
Slovenia ....2 Lithuania 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Slovenia - Sebastian Cinerotic (35th), Anir Karic (78th)
Lithuania - Kestutis Rodzionis (50th)
Attendance: 3,000
In Kiev:
Ukraine ....1 Croatia 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Ukraine – Andriy Shevchenko (14th)
Croatia: Milan Rapaych (51st)
Attendance: 8,000.

TABLE

Ukraine	6	5	0	1	14	6	15
Italy	6	4	1	1	17	5	13
Slovenia	6	4	1	1	13	3	13
Croatia	6	4	0	2	7	5	12
Lithuania	6	0	0	6	3	13	0
Estonia	6	0	0	6	4	26	0

GROUP 5

In Oslo:
Norway ....3 Malta 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Tore Andre Flo (39th), Steffen Iversen (45th), Ole Gunnar Solskaer (78th).
Attendance: 5,200
In Luxembourg:
Luxembourg ....0 Czech Rep 7 (3-0)
Scorers: Martin Cizek (3rd), Tomas Galasek (penalty 28th, 85th, penalty 87th), Martin Hysky (41st, 68th), Vladimir Smicer (65th)
In Minsk:
Belarus ....3 Netherlands ...1 (0-1)
Scorers: Belarus - Vadim Skripchenko (80th minute), Maxim Romachenko (86th), Alexander Kulchiy (90th)
Netherlands - Roy Makaay (29th)
Attendance: 9,000

TABLE

Norway	7	6	0	1	26	6	18
Czech Republic	6	4	2	0	21	4	14
Belarus	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Netherlands	7	3	2	2	16	8	11
Malta	7	1	0	6	3	22	3
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	0	31	0

Next match: Norway v Czech Republic, August 15.

GROUP 6

England ....4 Latvia 0
Scorers: Bart-Williams (37th), Shipperley (45th), Watson (55th), Booth (87th)
Attendance: 7,288
In Dublin:
Ireland ....3 Austria 0 (2-0)
Scorers - Kieran Durkan (21st minute), Declan Perkins (45th, 61st)
Attendance: 1,654

TABLE

England	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
Portugal	5	3	2	0	8	1	11
Ireland	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Latvia	6	0	2	4	1	11	2
Austria	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Next match: Aug 15 - Latvia v Austria.

GROUP 7

In Sofia:
Bulgaria ....2 Germany 0 (0-0)
Scorers: Galin Ivanov (63rd), Roumen Ivanov (90th)
Attendance: 5,000

In Cardiff:
Wales ....5 Georgia 1 (1-1)
Scorers:
Wales - Paul Evans (44th), Gareth Taylor (50th, 62nd), Lee Jones (76th, 81st)
Georgia - Amiran Mujiri (45th)
Attendance: 500

TABLE

Bulgaria	6	4	2	0	9	2	14
Wales	6	2	1	3	9	8	7
Germany	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Moldova	5	1	2	2	2	6	5
Georgia	5	1	0	4	5	10	3

Next matches: Germany v Georgia, Wales v Moldova, September 5.

GROUP 8

In San Marino:
Russia ....7 San Marino 0 (3-0)
Scorers: Kharlatchev (30th), Lebed (43th), Lebed (44th), Berketov (49th), Kharlatchev (53th), Lebed (84th), Rytchnov (86th)
In Helsinki:
Finland ....1 Greece 0 (1-0)
Scorer: Jalonen (21st minute)
Attendance: 2,085

TABLE

Finland	5	5	0	0	16	3	15
Scotland	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Russia	5	3	0	2	13	4	9
Greece	5	1	0	4	8	8	3
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	25	0

Next matches: Aug 15 - Finland v Russia, Scotland v Greece.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

ITALIAN DEPUTY JOINS REGGIANA

Former AC Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti said last week he was quitting his job as deputy coach to the Italian national team to take charge at Reggiana next season.

Ancelotti, 35, who ended his playing career in 1992, was Arrigo Sacchi's deputy during the World Cup last year.

Reggiana have won just four league matches this season and have been relegated to Serie B.

KOLYVANOV READY TO MOVE

Russian striker Igor Kolyvanov could be leaving Italian club Foggia following its relegation from Serie A, the player said in an interview published last week.

Kolyvanov, who recently resumed playing after suffering a serious injury last October, told Sport Express newspaper that he had already been approached by several other clubs. He declined to give details.

"The European championship is not far off and you have to be in full view to get into the squad," said Kolyvanov, whose contract with Foggia has two years to run.

CANTONA ON SILVER SCREEN

Eric Cantona, already a star of the small screen with Manchester United, launched a new career last week as a film actor.

Cantona plays a love-sick rugby player in "Le bonheur est dans le pre" ("Happiness is in the meadow"), which is being shot in the southwest of France by French director Etienne Chatiliez.

The film, due for release in France in December, is a black comedy about the family drama of a small businessman.

Cantona and his brother Joel, who plays for Olympique Marseille in real life, are attracted by the businessman's daughters and take them out dancing.

WINDFALL FOR FERDINANDS EX-CLUB

Les Ferdinand's $A13.35 million move to club Newcastle has sent one part of west London into near ecstasy.

Not at Queen's Park Rangers where fans will mourn the loss of another star player — but at nearby Hayes from the minor Diadora League for clubs round London.

Les Ferdinand: Big money move to Newcastle.

Hayes collects $A1,335,000 — 10 percent of the Ferdinand fee — thanks to a deal struck eight years ago when the then painter and decorator left it for QPR.

Delighted financial director Trevor Griffiths said: "It's like winning the (national) lottery, a real windfall.

"It says a lot for our chairman, Derek Goodall, who had the foresight to insist on the 10 percent clause back in 1987."

Goodall had learned from experience. Ten years earlier he sold Cyrille Regis to West Bromwich for a straight $A22,250 and later saw him sold on to Coventry for $A667,400.

Hayes, with average gates of 500, will cash in to the tune of almost $A222,500 for every month Ferdinand was on its books.

WEAH TARGETED BY RACISTS

Paris St Germain started legal proceedings last Friday in a bid to catch the group of rascist fans who targeted its Liberian-born striker George Weah in a midweek match. The fans in the notorious Boulogne stand unfurled a banner reading "Weah — we don't need you" and daubed it with Nazi SS insignia.

Weah, who is moving to AC Milan next season, was appearing for the last time in the 2-2 draw with Le Havre.

YEBOAH LEEDS THE WAY

Ghanaian international Tony Yeboah agreed to stay at English premier league club Leeds for the next three-and-a-half years.

Yeboah's decision ends rumours that he would return to German club Eintracht Frankfurt, from which he transferred to Leeds for $A7.62 million in January. The striker was an immediate success at Leeds and ended up the club's top scorer with 13 goals.

ATLETICO LOSE ANOTHER COACH

Atletico Madrid's ex-Argentine World Cup coach Alfio Basile quit the Spanish first division club last Wednesday after a row with controversial president Jesus Gil.

The pair traded insults on Spanish radio before Basile walked out on the club.

Basile, the third coach to leave this season, accused Gil of breaking a pact not to verbally abuse players after he gave them a dressing down following June 3's 2-1 loss to Santiago de Compostela.

Basile said he had no intention of being "walked over by someone who knows nothing about football".

Gil retorted Basile spent too much time partying. "When I get up he goes to bed," he stormed.

Basile is the 19th coach to quit Atletico in eight years of Gil's reign and the third this season, after Colombian Francisco "Pacho" Maturana and Argentinian Jorge D'Alessandro.

The club, one of the richest in the Spanish league, is in 14th place with one match to play.

It is the latest in a series of rows involving Gil — currently under investigation for alleged racist remarks about Atletico's Colombian forward Adolfo Valencia.

BLIND CHASE FOR VILLA

Dutch international Danny Blind, who captained Ajax Amsterdam to a 1-0 victory over AC Milan in last month's European Cup final, has emerged as a target of Aston Villa.

The 32-year-old defender, available on a free transfer, had talks with Villa manager Brian Little at the club's training ground.

Little later confirmed: "It is true to say that we have got an interest in signing him."

Villa face competition from Turkish outfit Galatasaray, now managed by Graeme Souness, and several German clubs for Blind's signature.

NIGERIA LOOK FOR BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE

Nigeria has appointed former Brazilian international Carlos Alberto Torres as manager and technical adviser of the national football team, sports minister Jim Nwobodo confirmed on Thursday.

Torres succeeds Dutchman Clemens Westerhof, who coached the Super Eagles for many years before quitting last year at the end of the World Cup finals in the United States.

Nwobodo told reporters the letter of intent for the contract with Torres would be amended to provide that he should be paid wholly by the Nigerian Football Association to ensure his loyalty to the association.

Under the original contract, part of the $A166,800 per annum remuneration was to be paid by a clothing and footwear firm who are sponsors and outfitters of the national team.

FERDINAND FINALLY LEAVES QPR

Queens Park Rangers striker Les Ferdinand became British football's second most expensive player when he joined Newcastle United for $A13.35 million.

It was Newcastle's second big transfer last week. Earlier, Wimbledon's Warren Barton became England's most expensive defender when he completed a $A8.90 million move to the northeast England club.

The price paid for Ferdinand has been exceeded only by the $A15.57 million Manchester United paid for Newcastle striker Andy Cole last January.

Keegan has been chasing a big-name striker ever since. He was linked with Chris Armstrong of Crystal Palace but had a $A9 million bid turned down just before the transfer deadline in March.

Newcastle went on to miss out on qualifying for European competition next season.

ENGLISH LEGEND DIES, 82

English legend Ted Drake, one of the most feared strikers of the 1930s, has died following a short illness. He was 82.

Drake, scored 150 goals for Arsenal in 197 League and cup games before World War II interrupted his career.

Drake moved to Arsenal from Southampton when he was 21 and still holds the record for most goals scored in a first-division match.

He scored all seven in Arsenal's 7-1 victory at Aston Villa on Dec. 14, 1935.

His 42 goals in season 1934-35, including seven hat-tricks, remains an Arsenal club record.

Drake played in the Gunners' championship winning teams in 1934, 1935 and 1938 and scored the game-winner in the 1936 FA Cup final against Sheffield United.

He scored six goals in his five internationals for England, and also played county cricket for Hampshire.

His career at Arsenal ended when he joined the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of war in 1939.

After leaving the RAF, Drake played for and managed Reading, but a spine injury first suffered during the way finished his playing career in 1944. He took over as manager of Chelsea in 1952, leading the team to the 1955 league title and thus becoming the first person to play for and then manage a title-winning team.

After leaving Chelsea, Drake became one of the first British managers to work in Europe when he took charge at Barcelona for six months in 1970. He then returned to London to manage Fulham and later became life president of the club.

Current England coach Terry Venables played under Drake at Chelsea and described him as father-figure.

BRAZIL THUMP JAPAN

Two superbly-taken second-half goals by midfielder Zinho led world champion Brazil to an emphatic 3-0 win over Japan in the international Challenge Cup at Everton's Goodison Park ground last week.

Brazil gave Japan a lesson in the art of scoring with all three goals coming as the result of clean, clinical finishing that hardly any team in the world could have prevented.

The first arrived after six minutes when Roberto Carlos sent a screaming left-foot drive across the penalty area into the far corner of Nobuyuki Kojima's net after a mistake by Kazuaki Tazaka.

The second came six minutes into the second half when Zinho, who plays his club football in Japan for Yokohama Flugels, sent a powerful left-foot volley from the edge of the box high into the net past Kojima's high, despairing dive.

Brazil's third came in the 68th minute when Zinho drove home with his left foot inside Kojima's right-hand post from eight metres out.

ROBSON TO SAY IN PORTUGAL

A series of Portuguese media reports suggest former England manager Bobby Robson will not move to English premier league club Arsenal.

"There are no possibilities for Robson to go to Arsenal," Porto president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa told a Portuguese television station.

Robson told the Record newspaper in Portugal Arsenal's offer was "very interesting" but any decision always depended on the president's decision.

British newspapers had strongly linked Robson with a move to Arsenal in a reported $A4.47 million, five-year deal.

Lentini transfer under investigation

The Swiss Federal judiciary are to help their Italian counterparts investigate the transfer of AC Milan's GianLuigi Lentini (above) from Torino.

Lentini was transferred for $A14.02 million to media magnate and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's Milan in 1992, making him the world's most expensive player.

However, Italian magistrates believe that Milan also paid a further $A5.5 million dollars for the midfielder into a secret Swiss bank account.

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —

ARGENTINA FIRST DIVISION

— June 4 —

Independiente	2	Velez	2
Gimnasia La Plata	2	Racing	1
San Lorenzo	2	Boca	0
River	3	Huracan	1
Banfield	1	Deportivo Espanol	2
Arg.Juniors	1	Rosario Central	1
Belgrano	1	Talleres	1
Gimnasia Jujuy	2	Platense	0
Newell's	3	Mandiyu	0

— June 5 —

Ferro Carril	0	Oeste-Lanus	0

TABLE

San Lorenzo	16	12	2	2	29	11	26
Gimnasia La Plata	16	10	5	1	25	11	25
Velez Sarsfield	16	9	4	3	25	12	25
Boca Juniors	16	7	6	3	26	15	20
Union Espanola	16	8	3	5	22	12	19
Rosario Central	16	5	8	3	26	18	18
River Plate	16	7	4	5	25	21	18
Racing Club	16	5	7	4	18	16	17
Gimnasia de Jujuy	16	4	8	4	15	16	16
Lanus	16	6	4	6	19	16	16
Independiente	16	5	4	7	19	22	14
Platense	16	2	10	4	8	11	14
FC Oeste	16	4	6	6	10	17	14
Banfield	16	4	5	7	14	19	13
Newell's Old Boys	16	5	3	8	17	21	13
Deportivo Mandiyu	16	3	6	7	15	22	12
Talleres de Cordoba	16	2	7	7	16	26	11
Belgrano de Cordoba	16	3	5	8	10	24	11
Argentinos Juniors	16	2	7	7	16	31	11
Huracan	16	2	6	8	15	29	10

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

— First Stage — June 5 —

Botafogo	2	Volta Redonda	0
Entrerriense	1	Am/Rio de Janeiro	0
Vasco da Gama	0	Fluminense	0

TABLE

Botafogo	11	8	1	2	21	5	25	1	26
Fluminense	11	7	3	1	17	8	24	0	24
Flamengo	10	6	2	2	26	15	20	3	23
Vasco da Gama	11	4	4	3	16	10	16	1	17
Volta Redonda	11	3	2	6	10	22	11	0	11
Bangu	10	2	4	4	8	12	10	0	10
America	11	2	3	6	9	13	9	0	9
Entrerriense	11	1	1	9	4	26	4	0	4

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

— First Stage — June 8 –

Aracatuba	1	Santos	0
Bragantino	1	Uniao Sao Joao	0
Corinthians	2	Guarani	3
Ponte Preta	1	Portuguesa	2
Rio Branco	0	Novorizontino	1
XV de Piracicaba	3	America/Rio Preto	0
Juventus	1	Palmeiras	0
Ferroviaria	1	Sao Paulo	0

TABLE

Portuguesa	29	15	10	4	45	28	55
Sao Paulo	29	15	9	5	44	25	54
Santos	29	12	11	6	45	30	47
Guarani	29	12	8	9	38	34	44
Palmeiras	29	11	9	9	44	29	42
Corinthians	29	10	12	7	42	31	42
Aracatuba	29	11	5	13	30	40	38
Uniao Sao Joao	29	9	9	11	34	38	36
Rio Branco	29	8	11	10	37	40	35
XV de Piracicaba	29	8	10	11	38	40	34
Ferroviaria	29	9	7	13	24	31	34
Juventus	29	8	9	12	26	32	33
America	29	6	14	9	25	32	32
Bragantino	29	7	11	11	27	33	32
Novorizontino	29	7	11	11	25	36	32
Ponte Preta	29	7	8	14	29	53	29

Note: top seven teams plus the winners of the second division qualify for the second stage. Portuguesa, Sao Paulo, Santos, Guarani, Palmeiras and Corinthians already qualified.

MEXICAN CHAMPIONAL FINAL

— SECOND LEG — June 5 —

Cruz Azul	0	Necaxa	2

Necaxa wins 3-1 on aggregate

PENAROL WIN THE URUGUAYAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Penarol: Winners once more.

Penarol continued its brilliant run, in the domestic competition by winning the Uruguayan league first phase.

The reigning Champions defeated Liverpool, 2-0, in the final played at Monevideo's historic Centenario Stadium in front of 40,000 spectators.

Antonio Facheco opened the account for Penarol in the 73rd minute and Dario Silva added the second 10 minutes later.

Penarol and Liverpool finished in first place, with 25 points each, so they have to play an extra game to decide the championship.

The new champions won the Uruguayan league in the last two years but the 1995 season will have to be decided at the end of the year between the winner of the first phase, Penarol and the winner of the second phase, to be played after the Copa America.

If Penarol also wins the second phase then it will be crowned as the overall Uruguayan champion.

Penarol players shared a price of 250,000 dollars while its coach, Gregorio Perez, received a bonus of $50,000.

MARADONA SIGNS WITH BOCA JUNIORS

Diego Maradona (pictured), the best Argentine player of all time, will resume his football career next September with his beloved club BOCA JUNIORS of Argentina.

After long and difficult negotiations, parties reached an agreement and Maradona will wear Boca Juniors' number 10 once his 14 months suspension is over.

According to a radio report from Argentina, Boca Juniors will pay the former Argentine national team captain five million American dollars for a 18 month contract plus 50% from all television rights paid to Boca Juniors and 50% received for all international and local friendly games, played by Bora Juniors, during that period of time.

The report also stated that the agreement between Pele's company, Pele Marketing, and Maradona, was abandoned by the Brazilians because Maradona and his manager, Guillermo Coppola, increased their demands by four million dollars. Pele's company, together with Brazilian club Santos, offered Maradona almost $US11 million for a two year contract. But apparently that amount wasn't enough.

Other sources claim that Maradona, who's dream was to finish his career playing for Boca Juniors, decided to ask for a bigger amount.

The same source added that if Boca's current coach, Silvio Marzolini, resigns from the post once his contract is over, next December, he will take over as coach of the "Xenienses", sharing the coaching position with Carlos Salvador Bilardo. So Diego will accomplish his greatest ambition: to play and coach Boca Juniors.

ARGENTINE STARS TO PLAY FOR INTER MILAN

Two of the most promising Argentine rising stars, defender Javier Zanetti and striker Sebastian Rambert will continue their football careers with Italian giant Inter Milan.

Zanetti who played for Argentine first division club Banfield and Rambert, who was one of Independiente's best strikers in the last two seasons, were members of the national team, winner of the recent concluded Pan American Games, held in Mar del Plate, and will be included by Daniel Passarella in the national squad for the Copa America.

Other overseas based players named in the Argentine team are Fernando Redondo, Jose Chamot, Gabriel Batistuta, Roberto, Sensini, Abel Balbo and most probably Diego Simeone.

VALDERRAMA IS BACK!

Midfielder Carlos Valderrama, who has gone back on a decision announced before last year's World Cup to quit international soccer, was included in the Colombia squad for next month's four-nation tournament in the United States.

Coach Hernan Dario Gomez also named striker Faustino Asprilla, midfielder Fredy Rincon, despite his difficult season in Italy with Napoli, and flamboyant goalkeeper Rene Higuita.

Colombia faces Nigeria, Mexico and the host nation in the tournament.

NECAXA TAKE TITLE

Star players Alex Aguinaga and Ivo Basay helped Necaxa beat Cruz Azul on June 4th 2-0 in the team's first national championship victory in more than 50 years. Some 110,000 people filled the Azteca stadium for the spirited match that Necaxa dominated throughout.

The Spanish Herald
The newspaper for the Spanish speaking population of Australia.

The Millionaires of South American Soccer

RIVER PLATE

CLUB ATLETICO RIVER PLATE — an all-sports club like most in Argentina — are the country's most successful side. Out of 86 tournaments played since professional soccer was introduced in 1931 — some years there are two, as now — they have won 24, way ahead of their traditional rivals, Boca Juniors, on 16.

An all-time 'league table' gives River Plate 3199 points with Boca Juniors second on 2999.

River Plate were founded on May 25, 1901, as a result of the fusion of two teams of students — La Rosales and Santa Rosa — and took their name from the river on whose banks they played their early games in the Boca district of Buenos Aires.

This is where their great rivalry with another team from the same district, Boca Juniors, began.

They are still nicknamed 'Millonarios' because they were the first club to spend big money on transfer fees when professionalism began. They eventually moved away from the district and exactly 37 years after their foundation they inaugurated their 80,000-capacity monumental Stadium in the other end of town, in the Nunez district. The stadium, the venue for the 1978 World Cup Final, is still the country's largest and best.

CLUB ATLETICO RIVER PLATE

Founded: May 25, 1901.
Colours: White shirts with diagonal red bands, black shorts, white socks with red hoops.
Stadium: 'Monumental', Avenida Figueroa Alcorta 7567, Buenos Aires.
Capacity: 80,000 (43,000 seats, 37,000 standing).
President : Alfredo Davicce.
Coach: Carlos Babington.
Honours: Argentinian championship 1932, 1936, 1937, 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1975 (1st Div & National), 1977, 1979, 1st Div & National 1980, 1981, 1985-6, 1989-90, 1991-92 (Opening Champ), 1993-94, 1994-95 (Opening Champ). Libertadores Cup 1986. Inter-American Cup 1987, Intercontinental Cup 1986.

River Plate, who have never been out of the professional first division — now the National Championship — won this season's opening championship unbeaten.

They also gained their highest points percentage (81.58) since 1937, with a 12-7-0 record.

This was the team that Daniel Passarella built by gradually bringing in more and more youngsters from the junior divisions, along with the addition of a few cleverly chosen and more experienced imports.

Passarella, who spent most of his professional playing career with River Plate and captained Argentina's 1978 World Cup team, took over as coach in 1990, winning the championship in his first season.

Passarella became national team coach last September and left his long-time assistant, Americo Gallego, temporarily in charge until the end of the year. Gallego, one of the 1978 World Cup winners and at one time holder of a record 77 caps, had already arranged to join Passarella's national coaching staff, and could not be persuaded to stay at the club after the end of 1994.

In between, however, the team went through 24 league and Cup games under him without defeat (in 90 minutes). Yet it was not all that easy — 11 of these games were drawn and another 16 won by one-goal margins. But River showed more consistency than others and ended the 19-game championship with a comfortable five-point lead over San Lorenzo.

River Plate's strength in depth is such that they can field two top-class teams with little or nothing to choose between the two teams.

They can call upon 10 past and present Argentinian and Uruguayan internationals and three other players who are in the current Argentinian national squad this makes selection difficult and frequent team changes may be the cause of some lack of understanding, especially in defence.

They overcome this, however, because firstly they are seldom pressed and secondly because their individual talent is superior to all their rivals in a league where the general standard of play is not particularly high at the moment. River Plate also show most variations in attack.

Enzo Francescoli, the idol of their fans, is back after eight years in Italy, and has made a great difference. At 34, Uruguayan international Francescoli still makes the wheels go round. He also fixed the team's poor record with penalties and free-kicks and finished as championship top scorer, with most of his 12 goals coming from dead-ball situations.

River Plate's Enzo Francescoli

The arrival of goalkeeper German Burgos and defender Roberto Ayala from FC Oeste also strengthened the defence. Goalkeeper was a weak spot when World Cup keeper Sergio Goycochea suddenly lost form and then left the club.

There was no strong reserve, although Joaquin Trigoytia, one of the outstanding players in the recent South American Under 20 Championship, should be in the first team soon.

Ayala, only 21, is considered the best libero in the country and Francescoli does not hesitate to liken him to Franco Baresi. And then there is Ariel Ortega, who made a brief but sensational appearance in the 1994 World Cup. He is considered one of the best forwards in the country — difficult to mark and more like Diego Maradona than anybody.

The parade of top players does not stop there, and the situation often has been like this in the past. Which makes one wonder why River have won South America's major club trophy — the Libertadores Cup — only once, in 1986 (when they also went on to win the World Club Cup in Tokyo) despite having qualified for the tournament 15 times.

This year they are playing in the Cup for the 16th time as 1993-94 national opening champions, and hope to rectify this poor record.

THE SQUAD

THE COACH

– CARLOS BABINGTON –
Former Argentinian international midfielder who played the 1974 World Cup. Nicknamed 'El Ingles', he coached Huracan (his former club), Banfield and Racing Club with some success before joining River in succession to Americo Gallego.

THE PLAYERS

– GERMAN BURGOS –
Goalkeeper. Age 26
(born, April 16, 1969).
Guarantees security and presence where it was missing before his transfer from FC Oeste last year. Also good with high centres, but he still needs experience.

– OSVALDO SODERO –
Goalkeeper. Aged 30
(Born July 17, 1964).
After lengthy reserve action he was given several extended runs in first team and mixed good performances with bad. Not quite up to standard of rest, but responded well whenever called on during the last championship.

– RICHARDO ALTAMIRANO –
Defender. Aged 29
(born December 12, 1965).
Fast flank defender who did not quite hit it off in the national team, despite winning 20 caps, but is undisputed in his club position, having improved his concentration.

– ROBERTO AYALA –
Defender. Aged 22
(born April 14, 1973).
His rise to the top has been phenomenal — debut with FC Oeste in 1993, transfer to River Plate last year, where he made a tremendous difference to the defence and has became club captain. He has made a national team place his own since Daniel Passarella took over last year. An elegant personality, still improving.

– ERNESTO CORTI –
Defender. Aged 32
(born March 21, 1963).
Experienced defender with great fighting spirit who could walk into any club, but is in and out of the team at River Plate. Two international caps.

– HERNAN DIAZ –
Defender. Aged 30
(born February 26, 1965).
Vital to the last four title-winning teams, intelligent and effective at breaking up attacks all over the place thanks to his great stamina. Often proves a match winner. Fifteen international caps.

– PABLO LAVALLEN –
Defender. Aged 22
(born September 7, 1972).
Product of junior teams, and has to fight for his place. Fast left-footer who moves up well.

– GUILLERMO RIVAROLA –
Defender. Aged 26
(born October 11, 1968).
Utility player who can be relied on for a good if not outstanding performance. A luxury reserve.

– JOSE ALBORNOZ –
Midfielder. Aged 24
(born December 18, 1970).
Excellent ball control and passing, but has been out of team a lot due to injuries.

– MATIAS ALMEYDA –
Midfielder. Aged 22
(born February 21, 1973).
Great stamina and effective ball-winner, but he needs to improve his passing.

– LEONARDO ASTRADA –
Midfielder. Aged 25
(born January 6, 1970).
Had a lengthy run in national team (winning 14 caps), but did not make the World Cup squad. At River Plate he is often the barometer of the team with his great experience, calmness and tactical knowledge.

– SERGIO BERTI –
Midfielder. Aged 26
(born February 17, 1969).
Attacking player with good ball control. Can change rhythm of a game and create chances, but has a tendency to be erratic. Three caps.

– GABRIEL NESTOR –
Midfielder. Aged 25
(born March 3, 1970).
Uruguayan international who failed to show his potential last year when he had to play in an unaccustomed position due to injuries, but is now back as an attacking midfielder and is becoming one of the team's stalwarts.

– MARCELO GALLARDO –
Midfielder. Aged 19
(born January 18, 1976).
Made his debut last year after coming up from junior teams and is still youngest of the squad, yet is ahead of his years in technique, thinking and play-making. Has great future, also in national team, but must get stronger.

– JULIO TORESANI –
Midfielder. Aged 27
(born December 5, 1967).
Great fighting spirit and hard worker, but his lack of technique has made him unpopular with the fans.

– JOSE LUIS VILLARREAL –
Midfielder. Aged 29
(born March 17, 1966).
A series of injuries cost him his national place, but when fit he is an outstanding attacking half. Four international caps.

– FACUNDO VILLALBA –
Midfielder. Aged 21
(born June 20, 1973).
More of a forward, and a fine fisher, but due to the abundance of good players has had few chances.

– GABRIEL AMATO –
Forward. Aged 24
(born October 22, 1970).
Acquired last year chiefly as a reserve and frequently goes on as substitute. A fighter with a strong shot.

– HERMAN CRESPO –
Forward. Aged 19
(born July 5, 1975).
A natural opportunist and good finisher, although injury combined with some private problems temporarily stopped his improvement.

– ENZO FRANCESCOLI –
Forward. Aged 33
(born November 12, 1961).
Veteran Uruguayan international, his return after eight years in Italy has had a huge impact. Even if past his best, he is still a great forward and has added aggression to the attack. He draws heavy marking, which leaves others free, organises well and has solved two weaknesses — free-kicks and penalties.

– ARIEL ORTEGA –
Forward. Aged 21
(born March 4, 1974).
One of the best forwards in Argentina today, with outstanding ball control and difficult to mark. Scores vital goals, too. Ten international caps.

– WALTER SILVANO –
Forward. Aged 23
(born May 11, 1971).
A strong-shooting forward and scorer who rarely gets a starting place. Has put up his best performances on loan to Argentinos Juniors. Not popular with River Plate fans.

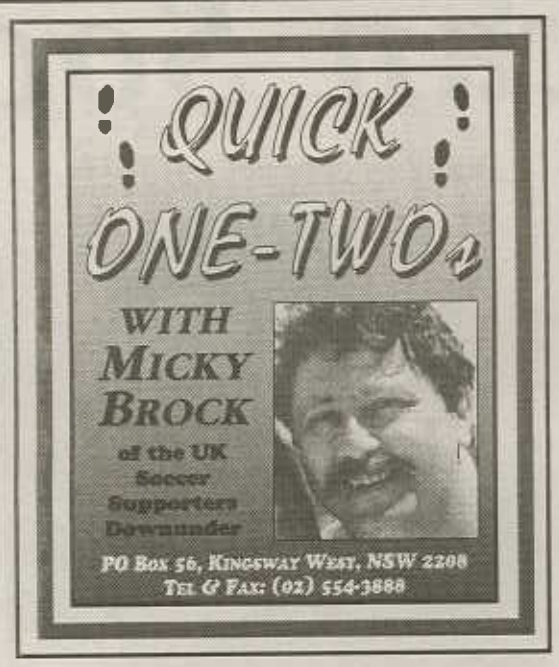
UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER

◆ ◆ ◆

Membership of the UKSSD is now open of course but as there have been a lot of enquiries from supporters of "other clubs" etc, it has been decided that the membership name will be the: Association of Football Supporters in Australia (AFSA). This is so that no-one need miss out on the great deals we can offer ALL members.

Firstly, membership will run from Jan 1st to Dec 31st each year but so much of this year has gone already, you can join for 18 months at the usual price of just $10 plus a passport sized photograph. Send these along with details of address etc and the team you follow and your photo-membership will be forwarded onto you as soon as possible.

Membership will entitle you to cheaper prices from our extensive range of books (over 300 titles), most videos (over 500 titles), t-shirts and team shirts from around the world, Mini Leaguers and special discount prices at THE SPORT FACTORY in Fairfield, NSW which is owned and run by none other than former Socceroo great Ray Richards. We will also be announcing some more details on ways you can save on airfares and a major deal (not to be disclosed at this time as negotiations are still underway) that will knock your socks off.



Please send all cheques/money orders (or cash) to UKSSD, PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208. Remember that the UKSSD is a "NON PROFIT" making organisation but we can be of help to all of you out there. Help us to support you and more importantly, to support local charities.

◆ ◆ ◆

We can now announce yet another great competition for all of our readers. The prize is an authentic replica 1994/95 season Southampton shirt but what do you have to do to win it?

Simply tell us the name of Southampton's top scorer this season (He is also from the Channel Islands and an England international as an extra clue for you). Once again we have to thank our very good friend Mark at Eurokit for the prize.

Matthew Le Tissier

When sending in your answers, why not ask for a complete copy of our merchandise list and see for yourselves just what a saving you can make when you become a member of The ASSOCIATION of FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS in AUSTRALIA.

You know it makes sense to get a move on quick and start saving now, remembering that this initial offer is just $10 for 18 months, beat that if you can! Send all answers to: Micky Brock, Matt Le Tissier Competition, PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208. Couldn't really be much easier could it?

◆ ◆ ◆

It is with deep regret that we hear of the passing of one of England's truly great players, Edward 'Ted' Joseph Drake.

(Obituary see Page 25)

His passing is a great and sad loss to English football and to his family and friends we send our heartfelt condolensces on their loss. Ted Drake was a larger than life figure who represented everything good in the game and we can only offer the following: R.I.P. Sir.

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Calling all "Supa oldies" (That's over 35's to you and I) who may be interested in the 1996 World "Fun" Cup on the Gold Coast. Anyone wishing to obtain more information can contact me at the usual address but from the brochures that have landed on the desk, it looks to be a great week of "fun in the sun" with teams competing from around the world.

I know the organisers will be reading this and would ask that they contact me again please as soon as possible. Many thanks. (By the way, who grassed me up?)

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Next week we hope to bring you a little bit of news from the West Ham Centennary Tour a couple of weeks ago but with a difference?

It's to be hoped that we'll cover a few areas that "others" did not and bring you a few laughs too. Until next week as always, "Be lucky".

POSTCARD FROM ENGLAND

"Mrs Jones boy" chips in again this week with his version of the "Off season table run down" from the UK and a word from "our lad" Trevor Morgan whom the UKSSD sponsored this last season (Trevor is the Assistant manager of Exeter City Football Club for those who've been asleep).

By Stuart Jones of UKSSD

Macclesfield: Champions of the Vauxhall Conference league but won't go up as their ground is deemed "unsuitable" for league football?

Exeter: Look likely to survive thanks to a last minute bid by a local company. This follows on after 1,000 fans travelled to see a match they thought would be the clubs last!

Doncaster: Have reportedly cleared out ALL of their staff after just missing out on the play-offs.

Fulham: Finished in their lowest ever league position — 8th in Division Three (Old 4th Division). They have managed to set up a link on the "Super Highway" of the Internet fame though, telling people all over the world of the news from Craven Cottage. Fulham become the first club in England to do this (picked a good year to start Jonsey! Micky)

Walsall: Just managed to beat off Chesterfield for second place after the latter had held the position for three months.

Carlisle: Champions at last with 12,417 people turning up to watch their last game against Lincoln — a 1-3 loss!

Leyton Orient, Chester, Cardiff and Cambridge are all relegated. Bournemouth only managed to amass a paltry 9 points after 21 games to do a "Houdini" act and survive by two points. Quite a feat!

Bradford — under Lennie Lawrence — had a very poor season. At the end of the term the club marked the 10th anniversary of the "Bradford Fire Disaster". (We would like to add our very best wishes to the survivors from the tragic day and offer our heartfelt condolensces to the families of those who perished on one of the blackest days in world football. R.I.P. Micky).

Wycombe: Just missed out on a second successive play-off place, this time in Division Two. Speculation mounts that manager Martin O'Niell is to leave the club for a "Premiership" appointment?

Birmingham: Lift the Division Two title just ahead of Brentford. Barry Fry (Birmingham) and owner David Sullivan could again be in dispute as to how much money is needed for the "pre-season" player purchases.

Swindon: Relegated for the second time in two seasons! Burnley, Bristol City and Notts County also join them in Division Two next term.

Sunderland: Look to make Peter Reid their permanent manager as he steers them past the relegation zone.

Sheffield United: Rumour has it that they will be without manager Dave Bassett for next season and speculators go further and point out that he may contemplate going to Sheffield Wednesday!!!

Barnsley: The famous club — supported by Michael Parkinson — just missed out on the play-offs whilst Reading make it (They lose to Bolton 4-2 AET at Wembley and so stay in Division One) which is a triumph for the smaller, local clubs.

Middlesbrough: As they play their last game at Ayresome Park, they contemplate the move to their new ground which is to be called "Riverside Stadium". They will christen this with Premiership football next term.

But what of the Premiership? East Anglia is in mourning as both **Ipswich Town** and **Norwich City** are relegated along with **Leicester City** and **Crystal Palace.** Bad protests ensue at Carrow Road where the "Canaries" faithful hold Chairman Robert Chase to blame. (Steve Lorenzon — Norwich City Rep NSW — states: "I can take no pleasure in it this time as we go with them, a bitter sweet year!" Micky). Alan Smith — manager of Crystal Palace — receives his marching orders and is another Premiership managerial casualty in a turbulent season.

Trevor Morgan: Assistant Manager for Exeter City and proudly sponsored by UKSSD reads a copy of the "Soccer Bible".

Sheffield Wednesday: Manage to avoid the big drop but part company with Manager Trevor Francis anyway.

The sear for a new manager at Highbury continues (rumour now has it that Bobby Robson, former manager of Ipswich Town, PSV Eindhoven, Porto and England has taken the position. Micky). The only words around the Arsenal ground appear to be $&%"*Nayim!

Tottenham Hotspur: Lose the biggest asset in English football this season as Jurgen Klinnsmann heads back to Germany at the end of the term, to Bayern Munich. Popescu goes to Barcelona but Spurs keep manager Gerry Francis on a one year "handshake" deal. It's also rumoured the club want Dumitrescu back from his loan spell at Barcelona, but I doubt it!

QPR: The annual fight to hold onto Les Ferdinand fails this year and Ferdinand finally leaves, bound for Newcastle.

Leeds Utd and **Notts Forest:** Both qualify for Europe after triumphant seasons.

Everton and **Liverpool:** Merseyside triumphs in the cup competitions as Liverpool take the Coca-Cola league cup and Everton win the big one — the FA Cup. Asked whether he was happy to be in Europe, Everton boss Joe Royale said "I'm just happy to be in Lancashire!"

Manchester United: After the wonderful triumph of winning the "double" last term they see the other side of the coin in this one by finishing as runners-up in both the FA Cup and League. They automatically lose three million pounds by not qualifying for the European Champions Cup. Discord remains after manager Alex Ferguson started with Mark Hughes on the bench in their final game at West Ham's Boleyn ground.

Blackburn Rovers: Crowned as Champions for the first time in 80 years, King Kenny's men finally break the hoodoo surrounding the title. The good news for Rovers fans is that the side who played against Liverpool on the last day of the season (and lost 1-2) could also represent them in Europe next season as they only had three foreign players on the park. Robbie Slater qualifies for a championship medal after racking up 12 games and six substitute appearances. Well done to Kenny Dalglish and "the team that Jack built."

Well done to Stuart on another article from the UK and as ever, we hope you find something of interest and fun in the above lines.

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The photo shows "our lad" Trevor Morgan reading a copy of the ABSW before a match at Exeter's St James' Park ground. Stuart adds the following: Trevor Morgan played a game for Exeter against Gillingham towards the end of the term, his first full match for a number of seasons.

The former St George player showed he still had the skills even if not quite the physique these days. Standing with the Gillingham supporters I can state he was appreciated by all of them.

We hope Exeter and Gillingham will survive (I can add at this stage that the rumours of Mick Jagger etc being asked to buy the club were totally fictitious according to sources in the Gillingham area that have contacted me. Micky). We hope that both Exeter and Gillingham will play again as it would be very sad to lose these two fine clubs.

** Since the start of the season in August and the end in May, no fewer than 44 clubs have changed managers. With some sacking/going through two, it makes a total of 53 people who have departed as managers this season! In the Premiership it has been 14 managers who have had their services dispensed within that period as opposed to just four the previous season and only two the year before that! Good career move, not!*

On the subject of managers, the happiest man after Everton won the FA Cup must surely have been former manager Mike Walker who received a "pay bonus" despite being sacked in November of '94.

Soccer
On the Phone 00555 2200
UK SCORES FROM 6.30am SUNDAYS
00555 0022 Australian Scores
Info – 25c/21secs (Premium)

UK RESULTS – 00555 2200
Info – 25c/21secs (Premium)

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER

FANZINE REVIEW

BY MICKY BROCK

MAGAZINE MAYHEM!

When coming to England and the UK and you look at the football publications you are amazed at the multitude on offer. Here is a quick look at just some of the non-specific club based national publications on sale:

FOUR FOUR TWO

A more recent publication that gives an "in depth" look at the footballing world. It comes out monthly and is aimed at adults to read. It does not ignore the controversial and also looks back at the history of the English game. It is not however, a magazine of match previews or reviews but rather how the game runs overall. 9/10

WHEN SATURDAY COMES

What started out as a fanzine is these days more like a mainstream magazine. It is very funny (Review next week in this section) and gets stuck in to all and sundry. It is not aimed at children but rather the adult fan looking for a bit of humour. Not as many pages as other monthly football publications but packs in the humour rather than the "ads". 7/10

SHOOT

Good for posters if you are 12-14 years old and a Manchester United fan! In recent weeks over here it has talked a lot about the editors and what sort of footballers they are. Lacks any "in depth" analysis of Divisions One to Three. A weekly magazine that does give you reviews of the games...then again, they do have "Greavsie" as a redeeming feature. 6/10

MATCH

Excellent results service but again aims at the 12-14 year old market. More posters but this weekly is better known for the results coverage I'm afraid. Does get player interviews but do we really need to know their favourite TV show? Good for little snippets of news but only covers the Premier League really. 6/10

90 MINUTES

For an "in-depth" weekly analysis, you can't beat this one. Aimed at a much more adult readership, they interview not only players but officials too. Their results service is adequate and the pages are much more packed with information. Less posters but more articles. The "letters page" and weekly correspondents are great and usually controversial. 8/10

MATCHDAY

A review of the Endsleigh Insurance Leagues. It keeps you up to date with the so called "smaller" clubs of England. A monthly for those dedicated fans outside of the "Premiership" league. 8/10 (if you're not a premiership club supporter).

There are many other publications doing the rounds so if you come to the UK and really miss your weekly dose of ABSW, maybe one of these publications can fill the void until you return down-under.

All the best, Stuart.

OUR DAY WILL COME

(Celtic & Man Utd)

Excellent publication in the photocopy style. 36 A5 pages packed with topical news, humour and information. Being a joint/dual team publication means it's easier to fill the pages each month but adds that extra pressure to cover both clubs equally.

As a staunch supporter of the "Anti-Racist Movements" in the UK, it grants extra marks anyway but this has no bearing on the final outcome because just about ALL fanzines belong to this but it's always worth mentioning the fact that they back the scheme for obvious reasons.

A particular bit of fun is called TEN CRIMINAL RECORDS and goes something like this:

1/ FOG ON THE TYNE — GAZZA & LINDISFARNE (1990)

Utter shit! If Pavarotti proved that fat people could sing, gazza destroyed this notion within four minutes! This was taken from his album "Let's have a party" which can now be found clogging up every second hand shop in the country. Numero Uno in our "shit parade."

10/ KOP CHOIR SINGS — (late 60s)

This one I've only heard about but apparently some bright spark had the idea of recording the "likeabout scousers" during two separate home games. The result, I'm sure, will have captured the wit and humour of those loveable rogues in full voice blah, blah, blah. Probably the dullest album of all time but at least we're spared volume two!

Much as I would have like to cover the entire top 10, space restrictions have beaten me again. ODWC is available from: Mark, ODWC, PO Box 467, London E8-3QX.

Priced at 50p per copy plus post and packing. Information is excellent, humour is brilliant and the whole thing is very worthwhile. Definitely recommended and should be obtained sooner rather than later. Just about everyone will enjoy what they read, loved it.

FANZINE LISTINGS

ABERDEEN PROGRAMME REVIEW: Kevin Stirling, 46 Summerfield Terrace, Aberdeen, Scotland AB2-1JD, 11:00 for 6 bi-monthly issues inc postage.
ACCRINGTON STANLEY: THE BARBERS POLE, Ian Simpson, 139 Stanley St, Acrrington BB5-6QD. 1:00 plus P+P.
AIRDRIE: ONLY THE LONELY, J Mitton, 6 Staffa Drive Airdrie ML6-8NG. 6:00 for three issues inc Airpost.
CHQS/MONEY ORDERS T J MILTON PLEASE
AMERICAN SOCCER: WALTER ZENGA"S RIGHT BUTTOCK. Davide "Calcio" Potato, P.O. Box 170413, San Francisco, CA 94117 USA. Priced at $3US per issue plus postage.
ARSENAL: GUNFLASH, Mick Coppock, 154 St Thomas Rd, London N4-2QP. 22:00 Per season. THE ARSENAL REPORTS, Dave Bissmire, 237 Wendover Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21-9PB. Cost: 2:00 per season (1 issue). UP THE ARSE, P.O. BOX 3252, London NW1-ONL. 50p.
THE GOONER, BCM Box 7499, London WC1N-3XX. 20:00 for 8 issues inc Airmail post.
ASTON VILLA: VILLA BUGLE, Alex Rossen, P.O. Box 3085, Erdington, Birmingham B23-7RF. 1:00.
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL: STUDS UP!, Kevin Christopher, PO Box 53. Oakleigh South, Vic 3167. $3 per issue inc postage.
BARROW AFC: GIVE 'EM BEANS: 9E Brig St, Barrow-in Furness, Lancs LA14-2RD. 60p plus P+P.
BERWICK RANGERS: FROM THE GROVE TO THE HARROW, Colin Beveridge, 5 Valley View, Tweedmouth, Berwick TD15-2ED. 1:00 (not available until June '95 due to work commits).
BILLINGHAM SYNTHONIA: JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN, Paul Smith, 40 Wharfedale Ave, Billingham, Cleveland TS23-1NL. 45p.
BIRMINGHAM CITY: THE LAD DONE BRILLIANT, THE HEATHEN both from Adrian Brown, 90j St Georges Dr, Pimlico, London SW1V-4BZ. 10:00 per 5 issues each plus news cuttings about blues.
BLACKBURN ROVERS: LOADSAMONEY: Paul Loftus 44 Tiverton Dr, Blackburn, Lancs BB2-4NR. 1:00 P+P.
BOLTON WANDERERS: COME ON FEEL THE WANDERERS, Simon Jones, P.O. Box 36, Bolton, Lancs BL2-1NR. 1:00 Plus A4 size self addressed envelope please.
BRADFORD CITY: CITY GENT, John Watmough, 46 Ainsty Rd, Wetherby LS22-4QS. 1:00
BRAY WANDERERS: NO WAY REFEREE, Niall McGuick, C/o 31 Hazel Rd, Donnycarney, Dublin 9:50p Irish.
BRISTOL CITY: ONE TEAM IN BRISTOL, Robbo Humphries P.O. Box 42, Burnham on sea, Somerset TA8-2YZ. 50p plus SAE
BURNLEY: MARLONS GLOVES: Jim Park, 5 Vincent Ave, Cholton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21-9GR. 1:00 plus P+P.
BURY: WHERE WERE YOU AT THE SHAY, Warren Flood, 19 Downham Cr, Prestwich, Manchester M25-0EH. 50p.
CAMBRIDGE UNITED: THE ABBEY RABBIT, 56 Wharley Hook, Harlow, Essex CM18-7DW. 80p.
CARLISLE UNITED: SO JACK ASHURST, WHERE'S MY SHIRT, Tim Pocock, 79 Harlow Cr, Harrogate HG2-0AL. 50p.
THE ADVENTURS OF OLGA THE FOX: David Arnison, 24 Wetheriggs Lane, Penrith, Cumbria CA11-3PE. 1:00 plus P+P.
THE CUMBERLAND SAUSAGE: Paul Newton, 53 Yewdale Rd, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2-7SN. 50p plus P+P.
WATCHING FROM THE WARWICK: Stephen Weston, 68 Richardson St, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2-6AA. 50p.
CARDIFF CITY: BLUEBIRD JONES, Mike Bread, 352 Southwyck Hse, Moorlands Est, Brixton, London SW9-8TT. 1:00 Plus A$ S.A.E. please.
OH BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS. P.O. Box 433, Cardiff CF2-4UZ. 1:00 plus P+P.
CELTIC: NOT THE VIEW, P.O. Box 306, Glasgow G21-2EA. 8:40 inc Airpost per season.
CHELSEA: COCKNEY REBEL, Ian Macleay, 8 Ravens Ct Gdns, London W6. 35p plus P+P.
THE CHELSEA INDEPENDENT. P.O. Box 4027, London W9-3ZF. Priced at 1:00 per issue plus P+P.
CHELTENHAM TOWN: THE ROBIN, Mark Herron, 36 Aboots Mews, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos GL52-4UP. 1:00 per issue plus P+P.
CHESHAM: THE CHESS SET, 10 Mills Close, Chesham, Bucks HP5-1QL. 1:00 plus P+P.
CHESTERFIELD: CROOKED SPIREITE, Craig Thomas, 19 The Hollins, Holloway, Derbys DE4-5BA. 70p.
COLWYN BAY: CLARET & BOOZE, 18 Ffordd y Craig, Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay, Clywd LL29-9HR. 50p.
CRAWLEY TOWN: SCORCHER, Mike Pickett, 3 Doubledays, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15-OHT. Now 50p + ROY OF THE DROVERS, as above 1st issue 1:00 containing 11 episodes.
DARLINGTON: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Steve Raine 8 Bromley Parade, Bowesfield Lane, stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18-3JG. 50p plus P+P.
DERBY COUNTY: C STANDER, Nick Wheat, 56 main Rd, Holmesfield, Nr Sheffield S18-5WT. 15:00 per season inc Airmail.
DOVER ATH: TALES FROM THE RIVER END, Chris Collins, 16 Pardoners Way, Dover, Kent CT16-2DB. 50p.
DUNDEE: EH, MIND O' GILLIE, Rob Crimmond, P.O. Box 110, Dundee, Tayside. 50p plus S.A.E.
DUNDEE UNITED: CAN I BRING MY DOG, A Boyd, 3 the Aspens, Dundee, DD4-OXJ. 70p plus P+P.
EAST FIFE: AWAY FROM THE NUMBERS, Michael McColl, 60 Rothes Rd, Glenrothes, Fife KY6-1BN. 80p.
EVERTON: SPEKE FROM THE HARBOUR, 146 Woolton Road, Allerton, Liverpool L19-5NH. 8 pds stg for 4 issues inc Airmail postage.
EVERTON: WHEN SKIES ARE GREY, Phil Redmond, P.O. Box 226, Liverpool L69-7LE. 60p.
EXETER CITY: WE'LL SCORE AGAIN, Gary Nelson, 4 Pinbrook Mews, Heath Barton, Exeter EX4-8QW. 50p. THE EX DIRECTORY, P.O. Box 106, Exeter Devon. 50p IN EXILE: Julian Bauer, 42 Northfields Rd, Acton, London W3-ONW. 10:00 per season.
FALKIRK: RUPERTS ROAR, Paul Hutton, Flat 3, 86 Grove St, Edinboro EH3-8AP. 1:00.
FAREHAM: MILLERS TALE BAILEY IS BACK — AGAIN, 16 Martin Ave, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants PO14-2RT. 50p.
FARNBOROUGH TOWN: SIMON'S HAIRCUT, Adrian Creek, 6 Loddon Rd, Farnborough, Hants GU14-9NT. 80p.
FULHAM: THERE'S ONLY ONE F IN FULHAM, David Lloyd, 128 Green Wrythe Ln, Carshalton, Surrey SM5-2DR. 1:00.
GENERAL FOOTBALL: WHEN SATURDAY COMES. WSC Merchandise, 4th Floor, 2 Pear Treet Court, London EC14-ODS. 25 quid per pear inc P+P.
WINGER. Dave Powter. 200 Bradford Road, Otley, West Yorks LS21-3LT. $54 for 12 issues.
GERMAN FOOTBALL: ELFMETER. Dave Wangerin. 16 Mallory Road, Perton, Staffs WV6-7XN. Priced at 75p plus P+P.
GILLINGHAM: BRIAN MOORES HEAD, Simon Baker, 11 Watts Ave, Rochester, Kent ME1-1RX. 1:00.
GRANTHAM: WINSTON CHURCHILL PICKED AN ARMY, Simon Hall, 3 Chelmsford Dr, Hillside Grange, Grantham, Lincs. 50p.
GRAVESEND & NORTHFLEET: NO IDEA, Nolan Wilde, 29 Hollybush Rd, Gravesend, Kent DA12-5QG. 60p.
GRIMSBY TOWN: SING WHEN WE'RE FISHING, 10 Glen Eldon Rd, St Annes, Lancs FY8-2AU. 60p.
HARTLEPOOL UTD: MONKEY BUSINESS, Paul Mullen, 12 Swanage Gr, Hartlepool, Co Durham TS24-9RR. 1:00.
HASTINGS TOWN: GHOST OF UNITED, Simon Stoddard, 93, The Ridge, Hastings TN34-2AB. 80p.
HENDON: THE SLEEPING GIANT, Jeff Fox, 88 Ravenscroft Ave, Wembley, Middx HA9-9TG. 50p.
HEREFORD UTD: TALKING BULL, Chris Jones 45 Knightswood, Hampton Dene, Hereford. 60p.
HIBERNIAN: HIBEES HERE, HIBEES THERE, John Ewan, C/- 9 Woodfall Dr, Clayford, Kent DA1-4TN. 50p.
Tanehsh, Stuart Crowther, Midtown, John O'Groats, Caithness KW1-4YS. 1:75 per copy includes postage.
HULL CITY: TIGER RAG, Gary Hook, 4 Elm Villas, Keyingham, Hull HU12-9RW. 1:00 A4.
IPSWICH TOWN: DRIBBLE: Alasdair Ross, 63 Woodbridge Rd, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4-2EQ. 50p.
WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD, 9 Days Green Capel St Marys, Ipswich IP9-2HZ. 50p.
KILLWILLING RANGERS: The Buffie, Jim Cochrane, 70 Glenapp Place, Killwinning, Ayrshire, Scotland KA13-6TE. 60 p. plus P+P & Yearbook 1:20 plus P+P.
LARNE: UNDER THE MOON, Gordon McKay, P.O. Box 12, Larne, Belfast BT40-3PA. 60p.
LEEDS UNITED: TILL THE WORLD STOPS, Pete Vale, 179 Grove St, Balderton, Newark, Notts NG24-3AS. 50p.
THE HANGING SHEEP, Chris Stringer, 2 Wayside Gdns, Eccleshill Bradford BD2-2JY. 60p.
LEICESTER CITY: THE FOX, Gary Silke, P.O. Box 2, Cosby, Leicester LE9-1ZZ. 1:00. FILBO FEVER, C/- High St, Leichester. 70p.
LEYTON ORIENT: FRANKLY SPEAKING, Andy, C/- 191 Beehive Lane, Ilford, Essex. 50p.
LINCOLN CITY: DERANGED FERRET, Kevin Stow, 50 Kingsley st, Lincoln LN1-3JN. 75p.
LUTON TOWN: MAD AS A HATTER, Keith Hayward, 292 ickneild Way, Luton LU3-2JS. 50p.
MACCLESFIELD TOWN: HANG 'EM UP, 62 Coare St, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10-1DW. 60 plus S.A.E.
MAN CITY: KING OF THE KIPPAX, Dave Wallace, 25 Holden Brook C1, Leigh, Gtr Manchester WN7-2HL. 5 issues at 9:00 inc postage.
MANCHESTER UTD: WALKING DOWN THE WARWICK ROAD, Alan Haynes, 16 The Quantocks, Flitwick, Beds MK45-1TQ. 50p.
MAN UTD/CELTIC: OUR DAY WILL COME, K Brown, P.O. Box 467, London E8-3QX. Priced at $5 for three issues.
MATLOCK TOWN: KEEP OFF THE FENCE, Mark Hardy, 5 High Ct, Smith Rd, Matlock DE4-3JL. 50p.
MEADOWBANK: THE THISTLE, 21 Little Rd, Edinborough EH16-6SH. 1:00.
RED NEWS, P.O. Box 384, London WC1N-3RJ. 5:25 for 3 issues. Cheques to Red News.
MILLWALL: THE LION ROARS, TLC Towers, No.12, 157-159 Boundfield Rd, Catford SE6-1PE. 1:00.
NO-ONE LIKES US, 12 Bernard Mansions, London WC1N-1CB. 1:00.
NEWCASTLE UTD: THE MAG, Mark Jensen, 25 Low Friar St, New-u-Tyne NE1-5UE. 22:00 per season inc Airpost.
THE NUMBER 9, Steve Wraith, 27 Laburnam Ave, Heyworth, Tyne and Wear, NE10-8HH. 4:50 inc postage for 5 issues.
TOON ARMY NEWS. P.O. Box 47. Heaton. Newcastle NE6-3YY. Priced at 12 quid per season inc P+P.
NEWPORT: RUN ALDS SHOOT LADS, Mike Tasker, 34, New Pastures, Newport, Gwent NP9-3GF. 50p.
NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL
END 2 END: Alan Calder, Unit 12, Chiltern Hse, Waterside, Chesham, Bucks. 22:00 per season.
NORWICH CITY: I CAN DRIVE A TRACTOR, Darren Alcock, Melrose, Beccles Road. Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31-9DJ. 7:50 for 4 issues including Airpost.
LIVERPOOL ARE ON THE TELE AGAIN! Duke MacMaster, 18 drake Close, Steeple-Tower, Hethersett, Norwich N99-3JS. 70p A4.
FERRY 'CROSS THE WENSUM', 80 West End, Old Costessey, Norwich NR8-5AJ. 50p
NOTTINGHAM FOREST: FOREST FOREVER, Richard, 69 Frenleigh Ave, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3-6FN. 8:00 per season inc postage.
TRICKY TREE, 149 Blake Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2-5LA. 50p plus P+P.
OLDHAM: BEYOND THE BOUNDARY, Pete Mason, 15 Oxford Hse, Suthers St, Werneth, Oldham OL9-7AF. 60p plus P+P.
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: RUB OF THE GREENS, Tony Scowcroft, 14 Craven Way, Warmley, Bristol BS15-5DR. 50p.
PRESTON N.E.: PRESTON PIE MUNCHER, Stephen Brennan, 10 Esplanade, Preston. Lancs PR1-4PF. 1:00.
DEEPDALE RUDGE, Jonathan Richardson, 4 Church Ave, Penwortham, Preston PR1-0AH. 50p.
QPR: IN THE LOFT: Howard Prosser, 24 Woodham Rd, Carford, London SE6-2SD. 8 issues 17:50 inc postage.
RANGERS: FOLLOW, FOLLOW, Mark Dingwell, P.O. Box 539, Glasgow G11-7LT. 1:00.
ROCHDALE: EXCEEDINGLY GOOD PIES, Francis Collins, 447 Edenfield Rd, Norden, Rochdale, Lancs OL11-5YR. 50p.
ROTHERHAM UTD: MOULIN ROUGE: 178 Greatwood Ave, Skipton, Nth Yorks BD23-2SQ. 80p plus P+P.
SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: THE ABSOLUTE GAME, P.O. Box 303, Southern D.O. Edinborough EH9-1NE. 12:00 for the season. Cheques to T.A.G.
Scottish Football: Non-League Review 1993/94, Stewart Davidson, 12 Windsor Rd, Renfrew, Scotland PA4-OSS. 2:00 plus P+P (1 issue per season).
SHEFFIELD UNITED: FLASHING BLADE, Matt Bell, 4 Cross Myrtle Rd, Sheffield S2-3EL. 50p.
SHEFFIELD WED.: WAR OF THE MONSTER TRUCKS, Matt Cooper, P.O. Box 488, Sheffield S6-4YY. 50p.
A VIEW FROM THE EAST BANK, Peter Holmes, P.O. Box 97, Sheffield S13-8JY. 1:00 (A4 size).
BODDLE, Taff Boddle, 37 Park Ave, Darley Dale, Derbys DE4-2FX. 8:00 for 5 issues.
SHREWSBURY TOWN: A LARGE SCOTCH, Kevin Bright, 15 York Rd, Harlescott Grange, Shrewsbury, Shrops SY1-3RD. 50p.
ST AUSTELL: Peter Hicks Wig, Tony Pearce, 5 Lower Woodside, St Austell, Cornwall. A4 size, 50p plus P+P.
STENHOUSEMUIR: THE DUFFLE, 19 Sutton Pk Cr, Stenhousmuir, Larbert FK5-4DB. 2:50 for 3 issue.
STOCKPORT COUNTY: THE TEA PARTY, Dave Espley, C/- 3 Dunlin Cl, Offerton, Stockport Sk2-5UF. 1:00.
SUNDERLAND: WEAR ALL GOING TO WEMBLEY, Robert Nixon, P.O. Box 32, Whitley Bay NE25-9YX. 60p.
A LOVE SUPREME, Martyn McFadden, P.O. Box 25, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6-1QE. 60p plus P+P. ROKER ROAR, I R Roddom, Box 19, Sunderland SR1. 50p plus P+P.
SWINDON TOWN: THE RANDY ROBIN, Matthew Arnold, 50 Westlecot Rd, Old Town, Swindon, Wilts SN1-4HD. 50p.
THE 69ER, Anna Merriman, C/- 26 Bydemill Gdns, Highworth, Swindon, Wilts. 50p.
TORQUAY UTD: YOU WOT! Rick Heyse, P.O. Box 30, Torquay TQ1-4YD. 50p plus P+P.
Bambers Right Foot, Hayden Jones, P.O. Box 77, Torquay, Devon TQ2-5YR. 50p plus P+P.
GILLIBILE GULLPOST, Chris Monna, 16 Osney Rd, Paignton, Devon TQ4-5HA. 50p plus S.A.E.
TRANMERE ROVERS: GIVE US AN R, Dr, 6 Rockybank Rd, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42-7LB. 1:00.
WALLSALL: BLAZING SADDLERS, Pete Holland, 8 Hollands Way, Pelsall, Wallsall WS3-5DH. 50 plus P+P. MOVING SWIFTLY ON, Andrew Polle, 10 Wood Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall, West Mids WV12-5NE. 50p.
WEALDSTONE: THE ENMSLIE ENDER, Sudih Rawal, 37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middx HA2-1PR. 1:50 plus P+P.
WEYMOUTH: TERRA-IZER A Miller, 4 Franklin Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4-OJR. 60p per issue plus P+P.
WELSH FOOTBALL: TOO SEXY BY FAR, 23 Trem Y Ffridd, Bala, Gwynedd LL23-7DG. 1:00.
WELLING UTD: WINNING INS'T EVERYTHING, Dave Fitchett, 24 Swallow Cl, Greenhithe, Kent DA9-9PT. 50p.
WIGAN ATHLETIC: THE LATIC FANATIC, Andrew Werrill, 186 Hodges St, Wigan WN67JG. 1:00.
WIMBLEDON: Yidaho! Colin Leonard, 35 Warwickshire Path, Deptford, London SE8-4LN. 50p plus SAE and P+P.
WILLENHALL: A LOAD OF LOCKS, Robert Fletcher, 10 Andrew Cl, Short Heath, Willenhall, West Mids MV12-5PL. 60p.
WORKINGTON: NOTHING BOROUGH PARKS TEAM, Mark Pumphrey, C/- 31 Berberry C1, Bournville, Birmingham B30-1TB. 50p.
W.B.A.: GRORTY DICK, Simon Wright, C/- 7 Ruthin Cl, Tipton, Staffs DY4-OAR. 13:00 for 8 issues inc postage.
THE ALBION CHRONICLE, James Holland, 15 Longue Dr, Calverton, Notts NG14-6QE. 50p.
YEOVIL TOWN: 5 Chafyn Grove, Corsombe, Dorset DT2-OQE. 50p.

Prices quoted do NOT include Airmail Postage to Australia unless specifically stated. Please add 1:00 per issue for this. We only list those fanzines that we have "sighted" and can personally state as actually existing. Get into them. Please make cheques payable to the Editor where listed or the fanzine name where not — unless stated. For reasons of SAE, please take this to mean Self Addressed Envelope. All prices quoted are in Pounds Stirling.

Soccer
On the Phone 00555 2200
UK SCORES FROM 6.30am SUNDAYS
00555 0022
Australian Scores
Info - 25c/21secs (Premium)

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'

THE POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 516
SAT. 17TH JUNE, 1995

*	MT PRITCHARD	HILLS UTD	1
NSW DIV. 1	BATHURST	GRANVILLE G.	2
	ST JOHNS PK	CONCORD	3
†	SPORT. M/VILLE	PROSPECT UTD	4
±	CLARINDA	OAKLEIGH	5
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIV. 2	BELL PARK	WAVERLEY	6
	CHELSEA	SPRINGVALE W.	7
	EAST ALTONA	MOORABBIN	8
	E. BRUNS. R.	CLIFTON HILL	9
	E. RICHMOND	MOOROOLBARK	10
	NUNAWADING C.	ALTONA CITY	11
	RINGWOOD C.	REGENT	12
VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3	ELTHAM UTD	FITZROY CITY	13
	KEILOR EAGLES	FRANKSTON	14
	PASCOE VALE	SEAFORD UTD	15
	SANDRINGHAM	BANYULE	16
	STH CAUFIELD	MELBOURNE C.	17
	SUNBURY UTD	S. DANDENONG	18
VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4	BRIGHTON	SUN HEIGHTS	19
	CORIO	GEELONG	20
	CRANBOURNE	WILLIAMSTOWN	21
	LANGWARRIN	STH WANTIRNA	22
	MONBULK	STONNINGTON	23
	YARRAVILLE	S. SPRINGVALE	24
WEST. AUST. DIVISION 1	BAYSWATER	ATHENA	25
	INGLEWOOD	SPEARWOOD	26
	STIRLING LIONS	SORRENTO	27
	SWAN I.C.	PERTH	28
STH AUST. PREM. LGE	ADELAIDE R.	MODBURY	29
	BLUE EAGLES	PORT LION	30
	SALISBURY	CROYDON	31
	WOODVILLE	CAMPBELLTOWN	32
SA PREM. LEAGUE	ADELAIDE C.	CUMBERLAND	33
	ELIZABETH	PARA HILLS	34
	OLYMPIANS	NOARLUNGA	35
	PLYMPTON	ENFIELD	36
	SEAFORD	W. ADELAIDE	37
*	BURNIE	GEORGETOWN	38

RESERVE MATCHES

*	SOMERSET	KNIGHTS	39
	ULVERSTONE	LAUNCESTON	40
	WESTERN SUBS.	DEVONPORT	41
WEST. AUST. DIVISION 2	BALCATTA	COCKBURN	42
	DIANELLA	MELVILLE	43
	KINGSWAY	SOUTHSIDE	44
	NORTH PERTH	ASHFIELD	45
	ROCKINGHAM	BASSENDEAN	46
	S. VARDAR	MORLEY	47
WEST. AUST. DIVISION 3	BUNBURY UTD	ARMADALE PK	48
	JOONDALUP	BALGA	49
	NORTH LAKE	PERTH CITY	50
	QUEENS PK	VASTO S.	51
	UNIVERSITY	WANNEROO	52
TAS STH DIVISION 1	DOSA	RAPID	53
	HOWRAH	WHITE EAGLE	54
	METRO	PHOENIX	55
	TAROONA	KINGBOROUGH	56

* NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION 1
†NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION 3
± VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1
TASMANIA NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE
§ SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION 1

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 515
SAT. 10TH JUNE, 1995

NSW DIV. 1	HILLS UTD	DULWICH HILL	1	3-0
	STH MINOTAUR	RYDE CITY	2	1-2
*	MOOREBANK	GLADESVILLE	3	PP
VIC STATE LEAGUE DIV. 1	KNOX CITY	CROYDON CITY	4	0-2
	OAKLEIGH	WESTERN SUBS.	5	0-1
	RICHMOND	B'MEADOWS C.	6	0-6
	T'TOWN DEV.	BENT. GREENS	7	2-0
	WESTGATE	CAULFIELD CITY	8	2-3
VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	CLIFTON HILL	MOOROOLBARK	9	3-2
	MOORABBIN	ALTONA CITY	10	3-0
	NUNAWADING C.	E. BRUNS. R.	11	1-2
	REGENT	BELL PARK	12	0-0
	RINGWOOD C.	EAST ALTONA	13	1-0
	SPRINGVALE W.	E. RICHMOND	14	2-0
	WAVERLEY	CHELSEA	15	1-0
VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3	BANYULE	SUNBURY UTD	16	2-1
	FRANKSTON	STH CAULFIELD	17	1-2
	MELBOURNE C.	FITZROY CITY	18	1-0
	SANDRINGHAM	PASCOE VALE	19	2-4
	SEAFORD UTD	KEILOR EAGLES	20	1-1
	WESTVALE	ELTHAM UTD	21	7-2
WEST. AUST. DIVISION 1	PERTH	INGLEWOOD	22	4-0
	SORRENTO	FREMANTLE C.	23	4-0
	SPEARWOOD	BAYSWATER	24	6-0
	STIRLING P.	SWAN I.C.	25	1-1
WEST. AUSTRALIA DIVISION 2	ASHFIELD	KINGSWAY	26	3-7
	BASSENDEAN	S. VARDAR	27	4-2
	MELVILLE	NORTH PERTH	28	1-2
	MORLEY	DIANELLA	29	1-5
	ROCKINGHAM	BALCATTA	30	1-1
	SOUTHSIDE	COCKBURN	31	2-0
SA PREM. LEAGUE	ADELAIDE R.	BLUE EAGLES	32	1-2
	CAMPBELLTOWN	SALISBURY	33	2-1
	MODBURY	CROYDON	34	0-3
	PORT LION	WOODVILLE	35	5-0
QLD DIV. 3	NEWMARKET	REDLANDS	36	2-4
	SLACKS CREEK	ANNERLEY	37	1-2
†	SAMFORD	REDCLIFFE	38	3-6

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney 0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm.
Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 10/6/95 WEEK 515

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED — NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED

1 59	2 60	3 81	4 54	5 54	6 60	7 72	8 95	9 80	10 98		1 7	2 13	3 14	4 13	5 1	6 5	7 14	8 0	9 18	10 5
11 97	12 103	13 91	14 93	15 97	16 102	17 95	18 91	19 88	20 113		11 5	12 0	13 2	14 15	15 5	16 1	17 15	18 6	19 1	20 0
21 104	22 105	23 107	24 93	25 91	26 104	27 96	28 123	29 108	30 128		21 4	22 1	23 2	24 6	25 0	26 5	27 0	28 1	29 3	30 0
31 111	32 101	33 106	34 123	35 121	36 102	37 114	38 102				31 2	32 0	33 4	34 3	35 2	36 1	37 0	38 4		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 515 SAT. JUNE 10, 1995

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

8, 12, 20, 25, 30, 37.

Supplementary Number 32.

FORM GUIDE FOR WEEK 516

NSW DIVISION ONE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	DIF	PT
Central Coast	14	11	0	0	3	49	10	39	33
Auburn Utd	14	9	3	0	2	35	19	16	33
Ryde City	14	9	2	0	3	33	20	13	31
Fairfield Bulls	14	8	2	1	3	33	17	16	29
Belmore Her	12	6	2	0	4	25	26	-1	22
Minotaur	13	6	2	0	5	17	18	-1	22
Dulwich Hill	14	3	5	1	5	23	27	-4	20
Hills United	12	5	2	0	5	19	12	7	19
Mt Pritchard	14	4	2	1	7	26	25	1	17
W Wanderers	14	4	2	0	8	20	35	-15	16
Sydney Cosmos	13	2	2	1	8	9	20	-11	11
Liverpool City	14	0	0	0	14	11	71	-60	0

NSW DIVISION TWO

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	DIF	PT
Penrith Pan	14	8	5	0	1	31	16	15	34
Granville Green/l	14	7	3	1	3	22	18	4	28
Bathurst '75	14	8	1	1	4	24	17	7	27
Bankstown Spts	13	6	4	0	3	35	20	15	26
Hurstville	13	7	0	2	4	19	12	7	23
Concord Jnrs	14	6	2	1	5	29	23	6	23
Trasandinos	13	5	3	1	4	24	33	-9	22
Uni of NSW	14	5	2	2	5	26	22	4	21
Parramatta City	14	1	6	2	5	17	25	-8	17
Colo Colo	14	2	4	0	8	10	22	-12	14
Sydney District	12	2	2	0	8	17	28	-11	10
St Johns Park	13	2	2	0	9	20	38	-18	10

NSW DIVISION THREE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	DIF	PT
Gladesville U	13	9	3	0	1	41	14	27	33
Hakoah	14	7	5	1	1	27	11	16	32
Greystanes	14	10	0	1	3	32	11	21	31
White City	14	8	2	0	4	31	20	11	28
Alexandria	14	4	6	1	3	20	14	6	25
Prairiewood	14	5	3	1	5	18	19	-1	22
Prospect Utd	14	4	4	1	5	29	27	2	21
AC United	13	4	4	0	5	21	26	-5	20
Earlwood H	14	4	4	0	6	28	38	-10	20
Moorebank	12	4	1	0	7	20	30	-10	14
Sporting M	14	1	2	1	10	14	40	-26	8
Sporting SSC	14	0	4	0	10	14	45	-31	8

VICTORIA STATE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Thomas Devils	12	8	3	1	27	17	27
Lalor United	12	8	2	2	21	13	26
Bent. Greens	12	7	3	2	28	15	24
Clarinda	12	5	4	3	23	16	19
Richmond	12	6	1	5	24	26	19
West. Subs	12	6	3	3	16	12	18
Croydon City	12	5	3	4	20	19	15
Westgate	12	4	3	5	18	18	15
Northcote City	12	4	4	4	17	17	13
Caulfield City	12	3	4	5	16	20	13
Oakleigh	12	4	0	8	14	23	12
Broadmeadows	12	2	3	7	18	21	9
Frank. Pines	12	2	3	7	14	20	9
Knox City	12	1	2	9	11	30	5

VICTORIA STATE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moorabbin City	12	8	4	0	25	6	28
Waverley City	12	8	3	1	28	7	27
Sp. White Eagles	12	8	3	1	28	10	27
E. Brun. Royals	12	8	4	0	34	16	25
Regent Bulla	12	4	5	3	20	15	17
East Richmond	12	4	4	4	10	16	16
Altona East	12	4	3	5	17	12	15
Bell Park	12	4	3	5	13	19	15
Chelsea	12	4	2	6	17	23	14
Ringwood City	12	3	2	7	13	20	11
Altona City	12	2	4	6	11	25	10
Nunawading C	12	1	6	5	8	20	9
Mooroolbark	12	1	5	6	11	28	8
Clifton Hill	12	1	0	11	7	25	3

VICTORIA STATE THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	12	9	2	1	39	12	29
Sth Dandenong	12	8	3	1	31	10	27
Sth Werribee	12	7	3	2	23	16	24
Melb. City	12	7	2	3	23	16	23
Sth Caulfield	12	6	2	4	13	14	20
Keilor Eagles	12	4	7	1	11	6	19
Frankston	12	5	1	6	22	22	16
Elt. Dia Valley	12	4	4	4	15	20	16
Pascoe Vale	12	4	2	6	19	19	14
Fitzroy City	12	4	1	7	9	17	13
Seaford Utd	12	3	2	7	17	32	11
Banyule	12	3	1	8	17	29	10
Sunbury Utd	12	1	4	7	9	21	7
Sandringham	12	0	4	8	9	23	1

VICTORIA STATE FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong	12	8	3	1	33	8	27
Sth Springvale	12	8	3	1	22	5	27
Cranbourne	12	7	4	1	25	8	25
Williamstown	11	6	1	4	11	10	19
Stonnington	12	5	3	4	19	16	18
Yarraville	12	5	2	5	12	13	17
Monbulk	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Corio	12	4	4	4	14	27	16
Sth Wantirna	12	5	0	7	21	21	15
Sun. Heights	12	4	4	4	16	14	13
Langwarrin	12	4	1	7	17	25	13
Nth Coburg Utd	12	2	5	5	15	15	11
Doveton	12	1	5	6	12	29	8
Brighton	12	0	1	11	4	34	1

WEST. AUSTRALIA DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Spearwood Dal	7	4	2	1	24	10	14
Swan IC	6	4	1	1	19	9	13
Stirling City	6	3	2	1	21	9	11
Sorrento SC	6	3	2	1	20	10	11
Perth SC	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Inglewood	6	3	1	2	12	16	10
Bayswater City	7	2	2	3	10	24	8
Floreat Athena	6	2	1	3	12	16	7
Panthers	6	0	2	4	11	17	2
Fremantle City	7	0	0	7	5	29	0

WEST. AUSTRALIA DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Knights	7	7	0	0	26	3	21
Kingsway City	7	5	2	1	26	7	17
Bassendean C	8	5	0	3	13	15	15
Dianella WE	7	4	1	2	16	6	13
Melville Comt	7	3	1	3	4	4	10
Ashfield	8	2	3	3	15	16	9
Balcatta	8	2	3	3	10	24	9
Cockburn Utd	8	2	2	4	12	17	8
Rockingham City	8	1	5	2	10	15	8
Southside United	8	1	4	3	11	14	7
Morley Windmills	8	1	3	4	13	19	6
Stirling Vardar	8	1	2	5	7	17	5

SA PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
White City Wood	12	6	2	4	24	17	20
Adelaide Blue Eagle	12	6	2	4	25	20	20
Salisbury United	12	5	3	4	14	13	18
Pt Adelaide Lion	12	4	6	2	19	16	18
Adelaide Raiders	12	5	2	5	24	21	17
Croydon	12	4	4	4	20	19	16
Campbelltown City	12	4	2	6	18	21	14
Modbury	12	1	4	7	15	31	7

SA STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Para Hills	11	9	0	2	20	7	27
West Torrens	11	6	3	2	25	12	21
Elizabeth City	11	5	4	2	17	16	19
West Adelaide	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Adelaide City	11	5	2	4	19	15	17
Plympton	11	4	3	4	16	14	15
Olympians	11	4	2	5	16	19	14
Cumberland Utd	11	3	4	4	16	18	13
Enfield City	11	3	3	5	16	21	12
Noarlunga Utd	11	2	1	8	17	29	7
Oxley United	12	1	1	10	8	44	4
Seaford	10	0	3	7	8	23	3

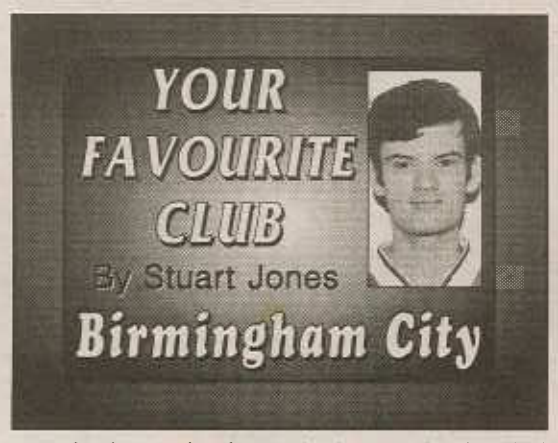
TAS. NTH PREM. LGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Devonport	7	6	0	1	31	7	18
Burnie	7	5	1	1	19	3	16
Launceston	7	5	0	2	43	9	15
Ulverstone	7	4	2	1	26	8	14
L'ton Knights	7	3	0	4	9	17	9
Georgetown	7	2	1	4	14	22	7
St Leonards	8	2	1	5	12	32	7
Western Subs	7	1	3	3	13	19	6
Somerset	7	0	0	7	3	53	0

ABSW UK RESULTS – 00555 2200
Info – 25c/21secs (Premium)

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER

Birmingham: Recent success continues...



In 1875 Birmingham City formed as Small Health Alliance. They moved to a ground at Muntz Street in 1877, where they stayed until 1905.

In 1892 Small Heath were elected into the football league's Division Two, they had dropped 'Alliance' from their name in 1888. Small Health won the Division Two title at the first attempt but were not promoted as Newton Heath won 6-3 on aggregate in the test matches (or play-offs as they would be known now).

In 1893/94 Small Heath were promoted after coming runners up and defeating Darwen in the test matches. In 1895 saw Blackburn defeat Heath 9-1.

The following season the side was relegated. In 1900/01 Small Heath gained promotion after finishing just one point off first place. Unfortunately they were relegated straight back down. In 1902/03 saw them again finish second and so win promotion again. That year also saw them defeat Doncaster 12-0, the second time they had achieved that league score, in 1892 they beat Walsall 12-0.

By 1905 Heath were established in Division One. The club changed its name to Birmingham and moved to its current ground at St Andrews. Birmingham finished last in 1907/08 and played in Division Two until 1921. In 1910 they had finished last in the football league, although twice between 1908 and 1921 they missed promotion by a place.

In 1921 Birmingham won Division Two on goal difference over Cardiff. Through the whole of the 1920s the club remained in Division One. The 1930s started badly with a 1-9 loss to Sheffield Wednesday at the end of 1930. Some success was to come as they made their first FA Cup final in 1931. The game was against local rivals WBA and despite the wet conditions the match was spectacular. The Birmingham full-backs had a solid display but Albion won 2-1 anyway.

Birmingham just avoided relegation in 1934 and 1935 but, in what was to be the last full season before WWII, the club was relegated in 1939. A last day 4-0 win over Leeds not enough as Chelsea gained two points from their two games in hand and avoided relegation by skipping ahead of Birmingham.

During WWII St Andrews was hit by 20 bombs and in January 1942 the main stand was destroyed by fire. Birmingham became Birmingham City after the war, and St Andrews was redeveloped.

Birmingham were back in the top flight in 1948 after taking out Division Two. In 1950 they were relegated but in 1955 again won the Division Two title. This was a close race, three teams finishing equal top on 54 points with Leeds on 53 and Stoke on 52 points. All City needed was a win in their last game. They did win, away at Doncaster 5-1, so won Division Two on goal difference. The following season they finished in their highest ever place of sixth in Division One, and also made the FA Cup final again, losing 1-3 to Manchester City.

Between 1955 and 1962 the side played in four European Fairs Cup competitions, being losing finalists was their best effort. In 1962/63 Birmingham won the football League cup over Aston Villa. In 1964/65 Birmingham were relegated along with midland rivals Wolves back to Division Two. In 1971/72 the club came runners up to Norwich by a point and so were promoted once more. In 1979 Birmingham came second last but came third in division two in the next season to bounce back up. In 1981 the side played in Division One and saw Local rivals Aston Villa take out the title.

In 1984 Birmingham finished third last by two points. Perennial survivors Coventry finished ahead of Birmingham thanks to a last day win. Birmingham once again bounced straight back up but in 1986 struggled and along with rivals WBA were relegated, 12 points behind the rest of the field.

In 1989 Birmingham City were relegated to Division Three for the first time. In 1992 they returned to Division Two (now renamed Division One) for a brief stay of two seasons before coming third last in 1994. This season the side, under manager Barry Fry, have rewarded the St Andrews faithful with some great results.

St Andrews record crowd is 68,844 in 1939. Walter Abbott scored 34 league goals for the club in 1898/99, a total of 50 in all competitions that season. Gil Merrick represented the club 551 times between 1945-60. The management at Birmingham is unique, David Sullivan is the owner and with Karren Brady and Barry Fry on staff it makes the back rooms of Birmingham very different indeed. The supporters are very loyal and St Andrews can now hold 25,000 of them in their all-seater stadium.

LEAGUE HONOURS

NICKNAME: Blues
HONOURS: Division Two: 1892/93, 1920/21, 1947/48, 1954/55
League Cup: 1962/63
GROUND: St Andrews, St Andrews St, Birmingham, B9 4NH.

Ince joins Inter

England midfielder Paul Ince is reluctant to leave Manchester United for a new soccer career with Italian club Internazionale.

"Paul was every bit as surprised as the fans when they heard that United had agreed on a fee with Inter," his agent Steve Kutner said last Thursday.

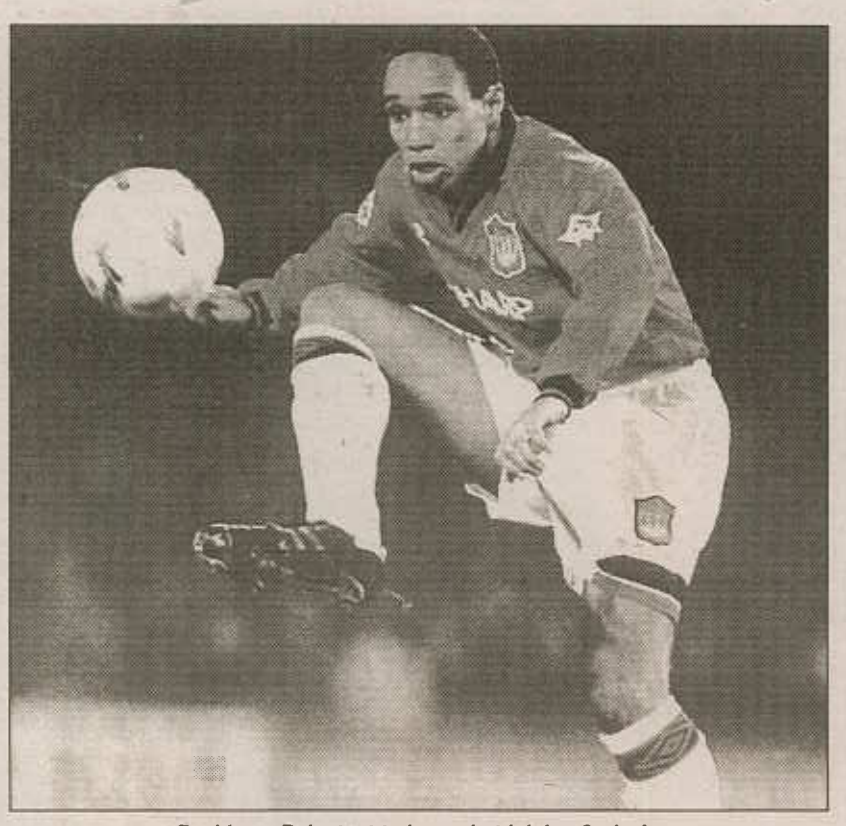
"He has certainly never asked United for a transfer and never would have. He was very settled at Old Trafford and had never thought about leaving."

United manager Alex Ferguson insisted that the decision to accept Inter's bid for Ince — believed to be in the region of $A14 million — was taken in the best long-term interests of the club and the player.

He said one of the main reasons why he felt he could afford to let Ince go was the emergence of Nicky Butt and other young players.

"I believe a midfield combination of Roy Keane and Butt will be as good as anything you will find throughout the premier league," said Ferguson.

"Butt can reach the same level as Keane. He's only 20 and I have no doubt he will be in the full England team before he is much older.



Paul Ince: Reluctant to leave, but joining Serie A.

"Paul Ince has been a terrific player for Manchester United...but a move to Inter Milan at this stage of his career makes sense not just from our point of view but also from his.

"I am sure he will be every bit as successful in Italy as he has been here."

Ince was understood to be discussing personal terms with two Inter officials in Manchester.

◆ Inter Milan announced last week that Manchester United and England star Paul Ince has signed for the Italian Serie A side.

Inter said the agreement for a $A13.98 million transfer was signed at Old Trafford with both Milan's vice president Gianmaria Visconti Modrone and managing director Paolo Taveggia present.

No comment was immediately available from United.

Ince, 28, had been described by Massimo Moratti, owner of Inter Milan, as the new Frank Rijkaard — who brought such success to great rival AC Milan.

Manchester United recently turned down a $A6.67 million bid for midfielder Ince from the Italian giant but chairman Martin Edwards agreed to allow talks with Ince on hearing the latest offer.

AGOSTINO JOINS BRISTOL

□ Bristol City signed 19-year-old Australian striker Paul Agostino from Swiss club Young Boys of Berne last Thursday.
He spent two weeks on trial with the second division club last season before completing his $A110,600 transfer.

PALACE DEFENDER FINED

□Crystal Palace defender Darren Patterson was fined $A660 and warned about his future conduct by the Football Association (FA) following his behaviour in the FA Cup semi-final replay against Manchester United.
The 25-year-old Northern Ireland international had been charged with misconduct for his part in the fracas at Villa Park in April.

RIOCH GETS HIGHBURY JOB

□Bruce Rioch was named manager of English premier league Arsenal last Thursday, following the sacking of George Graham in February over allegations of irregular transfer payments.
Stewart Houston, No.2 to Graham for five years, had been caretaker manager since the sacking at the club, which lost to Real Zaragoza in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup final in May.
Rioch, who guided Bolton Wanderers to the premier league, had refused to speculate on his future with the Lancashire side, sparking speculation he was in line for the Arsenal job.
Houston had also been in contention after helping the north London side recover from the shock of Graham's abrupt departure.
Arsenal had offered the post of director of football to former England boss Bobby Robson, which would have enabled Houston to keep a job on the coaching staff.
But Robson's current club, Portugal's Porto, threatened to take legal action against Arsenal if it tried to sign Robson and he elected to stay with the Portuguese champions.

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